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ROADSIDE AND HEDGEROW TIMBER (Illustrated). By Miss Gertrude Jekyll.

COUNTRY LIFE

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THE PROVISION OF FARM COTTAGES

IN the past cottages were built at haphazard. One owner we know of put up a row of villas, the worst of which would have let at from 7s. 6d. to 10s. a week, and with ill judged munificence gave them rent free to the labourers on his large home farm. Neighbours depending on farm profits for a livelihood resented his action as they could not follow his example, and dissatisfaction was engendered among their people. On another estate a few miles distant, the owner, pleading poverty, has done nothing to supply the shortage of cottages. The results are visible. Farms supplied with cottages have never failed to get labour during the stress of war, but those which, in default of housing accommodation, had to draw their men from villages, three, four or even five

miles away have always been in such straits as to make carrying on a matter of the utmost difficulty. As soon as war pressure quickened the demand for labour those who used to travel to their work seized every good chance to get work close at hand. This was the case even with those who used bicycles, especially when the roads along which they had to go became rutted and stony with neglect as more and more men were called away from their accustomed tasks to strengthen the armies in the field. If the farmer happened, as often, to be an old man, it was pitiful that he should have to rise for that early morning attention which horses and horned stock demand. The war has had a remarkable effect in bringing home to the farmer the immense advantage of having cottages for his essential labourers on the land where they work. It is an arrangement possessing a definite money value for him. "Farm well supplied with cottages" has become a very effective line in the advertisements of farms to let. The difficulty of providing them centres round the poor landowner. He will probably be in a minority after the war. Land is rapidly changing owners, and estates are going into the hands of those who have been able to increase their riches in the midst of international strife, and largely through its agency. Most of the new owners of large estates are in a position to see that they are adequately equipped. But how is the poor owner to manage? Some politicians are little inclined to yield him any consideration. Extremists among them go so far as to urge the complete elimination of the owning class; but at present they need not be taken into account. Our system of landlords, tenants and labourers is the one to be dealt with. Among them they carry on the very thriving business of agriculture.

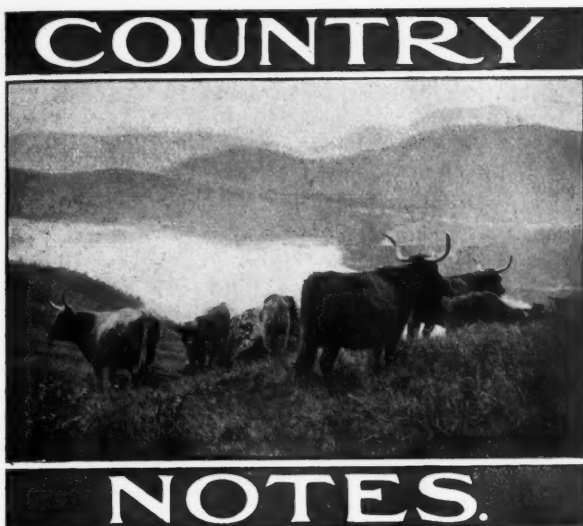
Each stands to gain by the building of cottages—the owner through an enhancement of the value of his estate, the farmer by securing better equipment for earning profit in husbandry, and the labourer by a very real gain in health and comfort. Added to these advantages are the important benefits to the State, first, of securing more food, and, secondly, of increasing its reservoir of vigorous manhood. The gain of the State is everybody's gain and calls for no comment just now. The value to a worker of a cottage and a garden could be definitely calculable by a local wages board. Whether he pays it in rent or receives it as part of his wages can make no difference so long as its worth is defined by a tribunal in which he trusts. No false situation arises here such as is created when the labourer is charged, say, 1s. a week and fancies he is paying the rent of a cottage which could be let for three or four times as much, and even then would probably represent a very low rate of interest on the capital required to build it. The Wages Board must drive it into his slow but sure intelligence that under the old arrangement he never really got off scot-free. This was an old belief of the farm labourer, who spoke of having his cottage "given" to him, but out of his pocket came the weekly 1s. and out of his bones and blood the balance of the rent. In the shape of an increase in the rent of his holding the farmer must pay interest on the squire's capital expenditure.

Here, then, are the bones and framework of the evidence. It ought not to be of overwhelming difficulty to fit them into a strong business-like edifice. Were wages to flatten out after the war the cottager might not be able to pay a rent that would approximate to what the tenant had to find as interest on the current expenditure. Such a state of things could be dealt with, but its occurrence is most improbable. It can, indeed, easily be rendered impossible if adequate measures are taken, as taken they must be, to bring food production up to the level of national requirements. There is no chance of food becoming cheap in the lifetime of this generation, and the future is bound to be one of intense and ever more intense cultivation, which implies a vast extension of work and a consequent widening of opportunity for the labourer.

Our Frontispiece

WE print as our frontispiece to this week's issue a portrait of Lady Victoria Cavendish-Bentinck, whose engagement is just announced to Captain Michael Erskine Wemyss (Royal Horse Guards) of Castle Wemyss, Fife, son of Lady Lilian Wemyss. Lady Victoria Cavendish-Bentinck, who is the only daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Portland, has recently been working in a munition factory.

* * It is particularly requested that no permissions to photograph houses, gardens or livestock on behalf of COUNTRY LIFE be granted except when direct application is made from the offices of the paper.



FEW of us can have read without a stirring of emotion the conjunction of names in Sir Edmund Allenby's *communiqué* announcing his sensational success in Palestine, which the King in his message said "will rank as a great exploit in the history of the British Empire." "Our cavalry," it ran, "traversing the field of Armageddon has occupied Nazareth." Thus fighting men from the four corners of the world have passed over the battle ground that has through the ages stood as a symbol of war and have come to the village that is the cradle of peace. But General Allenby's victory does not stop short at sentimental value; it looks, indeed, as though he has the greater part of the Turkish army in his pocket. It remains now only to secure the eastern side of the Jordan and to push up to Damascus for the whole of Palestine to be in our hands; but even if the remaining Turkish army makes good its escape across the fords of Jordan, there is still our ally the King of Hedjaz to be accounted for, his troops have already destroyed communications to the north and the east, and it is scarcely too much to say that the Turkish army as a serious factor in the Palestine campaign is disposed of. This news, taken in conjunction with the re-entry of Serbia as an advancing force and the separation of the Bulgarian armies is the best possible answer to any proposals for a Round Table Peace Conference.

AS one reads the daily records of aerial activity not only on the western front, but in every theatre of war, it requires more than an ordinary effort of mental retrospection to realise that this month marks only the tenth anniversary of Mr. Wilbur Wright's first exhibition of aviation in Europe. At that time 987 lb. was the limit of weight an aeroplane carried. To-day a load of 3½ tons is a commonplace. Military needs have developed machines of widely differing types. Certain of these will presently figure in express mail services, while others will be readily adapted and developed to form the basis of more directly commercial undertakings. Among these latter the carriage of passengers will at first figure the more prominently, though the goods-carrying aeroplane may ultimately attain equal importance. It is a mistake to suppose that the quality of speed is the only recommendation for aircraft as against other means of conveyance. Perhaps even more important is their ability to dispense with any prepared surface upon which to travel, and also their capability of working equally over land and water. These two qualities point to their employment on through services between countries separated by sea, and also to their use as a means of developing young and sparsely populated districts lacking in means of communication.

REGARDED as a carrying unit and compared with the railway system the aeroplane is only fitted to deal with light loads, and its costs of operations are admittedly high. We must, however, remember that before railway trains can operate the railway itself must be laid, the initial cost is very high and so long as the volume of traffic is small the interest on the capital invested may well represent a much more substantial sum than that involved in the working of an aeroplane service sufficient to deal with all needs. The success of such services must depend largely on the active support given by the governments of the Empire. The main object in many cases will be to act as means of develop-

ment rather than to show a direct financial profit. Thus it is largely for our governments to determine what shall be the future of commercial aeronautics. At the same time a well advised policy while undertaking the inauguration, and some measure of the control of services, will certainly not interfere in the manufacture of the aircraft. It is essential that competition should be maintained and the initiative of engineers encouraged, as otherwise our activities will lack those elements necessary to secure for us a permanent supremacy of the air.

IN the whole of Italy there has not been a strike during the last twelve months. Here is a record her Allies must indeed envy and desire to emulate. It is not the outcome of better conditions, of more food and fuel, or of greater military success. Italy, since she made the difficult decision between right and wrong and abandoned her place in the Triple Alliance to fight among the Allies, has known many trials and, if many successes, one great reverse, the disaster of Caporetto. Only one of her railways is being worked by coal, the others are burning lignite, there is but a small supply of gas, and the depreciation of the lira is having the effect of making her pay nearly twice as much as any of her allies for purchases made abroad. Yet, in spite of these difficult conditions, the flame of Italian patriotism has never burned more steadily nor has the army been in better trim. Some idea of the feats of endurance and engineering which that army has achieved may have been formed by those who have visited during the past week the Exhibition of Italian War Pictures at the Mendoza Galleries. Army and people are as one in iron determination and concentration upon the task of winning the war.

"AS I WENT HOME."

As I went home in the dusk last night,
There was no sound at all,
But the brown burn singing down to the sea,
And the splash of the waterfall.

As I went home in the dusk last night,
The west was amber clear;
The tawny moon swung over the hills—
And I thought of you, my dear.

As I went home in the dusk last night,
A wind sang through the grass,
Sang me home to the lonely house—
And I heard your footstep pass.

As I went home in the dusk last night,
I had nor hope nor fear;
But my heart sang with the singing wind—
You were home at last, my dear.

JOAN CAMPBELL.

IN unhappy contrast with Italy's freedom from strikes came the news—ironically enough on Italy's Day—that the strike of enginemen, which began in South Wales, had reached London. Its rapid spread has drawn an equally prompt decision from the Government. Never was a strike so completely lacking in public support and sympathy as the reckless and utterly irresponsible action of a small section of the railwaymen. Sir Albert Stanley's announcement of the Government's intention to fight the strike was everywhere greeted with satisfaction, and the Government may count on the fullest public support for a policy of firm dealing. Indeed, further afield, among the most democratic of our allies, we may be certain such a policy will be regarded with approval. In the face of what Mr. Thomas does not scruple to call anarchy it is wholly impossible for the Government to reopen negotiations, for to do so would be tantamount to surrendering every vestige of authority. The decision has been made: the necessary transport is to be worked by the military, and the disaffected men must recognise that their action has placed them utterly out of court.

IN many rural districts it is customary to hold the Harvest Thanksgiving Service on the last Friday and Sunday of September. The feast is held with no regard for the conditions, and this year is the occasion of much irony, as the simple rustic mind revolts at being asked to sing: "All is safely gathered in," whereas oats and wheat are still blackening under the rainstorms of one of the wettest Septembers ever experienced. He fails to grasp the explanation that thanks are given for the harvest, but not for the harvest of an

particular year. Seed-time and harvest-time are, in his opinion, arrangements of Nature, but when a good crop is safely housed and rain falls thereafter, that fulfils his idea of a "Merciful Providence." In late and northerly districts there is a good deal to be said in defence of his attitude. Nothing could well be more vexing than to see the beautiful crops of this year change colour and ripen, then be drenched with rain every day till the very cores of the grain are softened. The northern farmer to-day is watching the weather-glass as a cat watches a mouse. No chance of leading is missed; and, indeed, a great deal of the crops in the South have already been saved, but the heavy, intermittent showers afford very little chance of getting on with the leading.

A USEFUL suggestion for augmenting the available supply of fuel was put forward in a letter to the *Times* from the Hon. A. E. Gathorne-Hardy. He points out that the roots of felled trees which are almost always left rotting in the ground might be utilised without any waste and with great advantage to meadows and pastures. On his own paddocks and meadows of some thirty acres there are, he says, forty great roots of elm and birch trees which have been felled and which would provide many tons of most valuable fuel with a very small expenditure of labour. Before the war he grubbed the fuel with a monkey jack and found it most excellent value as firewood. The process, however, is a difficult and laborious one, and he suggests that the proper department should organise a system of sending out wounded sappers or artillerymen with charges of dynamite and guncotton to blow up the roots, which could then be removed easily and economically. Certainly the removal of such tree roots, apart altogether from their value as fuel, would set free a good deal of valuable ground. There is also a great deal of fallen wood about the countryside that might well serve as fuel. The chief obstacle in the way of its utilisation is the difficulty of collection and transport. This might be got over if army lorries returning empty could be used for this purpose.

WHAT the Women's Institutes are doing in a small way in some parts of the country is being done under the auspices of the London County Council on a very comprehensive scale by means of what have been termed extension lectures on the domestic arts. In the forty Women's Institutes in the County Council area there are courses on catering for women and girls of all ages and classes. Their object is to give to the whole business of household work the character it ought never to have lost; for too long it has been regarded as drudgery, a tiresome business that must be got through and done with. If the Institutes can succeed in linking up the interests of the housekeeper with the larger interest of the town and nation they will be doing a valuable piece of reconstructive work. How comprehensive the scheme is may be seen from the fact that, in addition to the routine lessons in cookery and laundry work and the rest, there are courses dealing with shopping under war-time conditions, the students making their own investigations; and others go into such questions as the choosing of a house or flat or rooms, the buying of new and second-hand furniture, interior decoration and the whole realm of possibilities open to her who has a thought for beauty and colour. There is little likelihood that anything like a generous supply of domestic service can be counted upon for a long time to come, and it is no surprise, therefore, that not only working-class mothers, but the wives of professional men are found among the students.

WE print elsewhere a letter from a correspondent who suggests that the high prices ruling just now for furniture provide an opportunity for owners of country houses to dispose usefully of many of the pieces of furniture which have a way of accumulating in large households and are much better out of the way. There are comparatively few rooms whose appearance would not be greatly improved if they contained less furniture. How many country houses there are, too, where one may find, stored away in attics and stables, all sorts of furniture that in the course of time has been replaced and is now serving no useful purpose at all. There is a great demand for furniture of every sort, and owners of country houses would not only be serving themselves a good turn by getting rid of unnecessary furniture, but they would be doing something to supply the needs of other people. In every large house, too, there is always the possibility that mixed with genuine pieces of old furniture there are a good many passable imitations; these, again, might be searched out and disposed of to the mutual advantage of all parties concerned.

SUNDAY night's putting the clock back one hour will be reluctantly performed by most of us, for the advantages of daylight saving are so manifest that many would welcome its continuation for another month at least, and the more so as it would at first sight appear to represent a saving in light and fuel which would be by no means negligible. The matter has, however, been very carefully gone into, and the authorities are confident that the present date must be adhered to. The balance of advantage is changing at this time of the year, and the light and heat which would be saved in houses and shops at the end of the day would be more than lost in mills and workshops in industrial areas. Then, also, there are the obvious disadvantages which the farmer can tell of.

THIS is not the only change in things horological coming into operation at this time, for the Army, as was announced a few days ago, is adopting the Continental system of the twenty-four hour clock—a system of reckoning time freer from chances of error than that to which we are accustomed. But for ordinary purposes the Englishman finds it rather clumsy and confusing. Who of us is there that has not wrestled with the Continental time-table and found his mental arithmetic breaking down in the attempt to remember the English equivalent of 21-14? But, after all, our plan is not without its confusing elements, and it certainly seems absurd that 12.30 p.m. should be earlier than 8.30 p.m. The Continental clock would be less tiresome if the reckoning began at noon instead of midnight; as it is, most of the ordinary waking hours run into the teens and twenties.

A CHILD IN HOSPITAL.

(In the next bed.)

When you go home you mean to eat
Herrings and pork . . . with smooth-drawn sheet,
You stare and stare, as if to cry:
"Sick for your Mummy? So am I"—
Urging me shyly to a sweet,
Sticky with love, till Sister's beat
Brings her our way, so starched and neat;
She bids you grow your wings and fly—
Ere you go home!

I think Death would not dare to cheat
Your hopes . . . and yet with patient feet,
(More patient, Dear, than mine) you lie,
Dreaming of rainbows in the sky,
And sunlit puddles down the street:
When you go home!

JOYCE COBB.

THE allotment holders of Hendon in the Sunderland district who, after a thunderstorm at the end of August, found their holdings covered with little fish were no doubt considerably surprised, for their new crop was rather more improbable than the "cockle-shells" of the garden in nursery rhyme. The correspondent who describes the phenomenon in the *Scotsman* says that the fish "covered the ground like hail." They were in some cases 3 ins. long, and Professor Meek, who examined some, found them to be without exception examples of the lesser sand-eel. That they should fall out of the clouds at a spot hundreds of yards from the sea is, of course, explainable on the hypothesis that the tiny fish swimming near the surface had been lifted by a whirlwind and taken up with the spray and moisture into the storm cloud from which they tumbled. The incident is rare enough to be interesting, but there are records of other showers equally unexpected, such as the deluge of hay which fell near Dublin in 1875, and the herrings which have more than once forestalled the fisherman by alighting on Scottish soil. "Raining cats and dogs" is scarcely such an imaginative hyperbole as it sounds.

THE Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals puts out a plea to the employers of civilian horses to ration the work of their animals on the ground that the present ration of food is altogether too meagre to enable them to continue to work at full pressure without danger to the animals' health. The Controller of Horse Transport has already pointed out that the work of horses should be regulated and the manner of their work supervised in order that overworking and over-driving shall be avoided. He also advocates that trotting of horses with heavy loads should be prohibited except in special circumstances. Such points as these have

frequently been drawn attention to, but the Society believes that only legal power can properly protect the underfed and overworked horses. There is not likely to be any disagreement as to the desirability of doing everything possible to conserve horses' strength by pooling the distribution of trade productions and so forth; but no good case—and this is a good case—is improved by overstatement, and the R.S.P.C.A. is guilty of exaggeration when it insists that working horses must have oats. By no means all horses were given oats even before the war, and it is a pity to prejudice opinion by making unreasonable demands. So, too, as to the matter of bedding. Straw, of course, is warm and comfortable, but there are a great many substitutes. Indeed, bracken has for at least two years past been used in many home camps for Army horses. How far it is possible to prohibit the use of straw for packing is difficult to say. Certainly where sawdust or other substitutes can be used for this purpose straw should not be employed.

AMONG the many pieces of constructive work evoked, paradoxically enough, by the destructive forces of war, there are few that make a quicker appeal to our imagination than the work that is being done to make amends, to some slight extent, to the men who have been deprived of their sight. An example of it is to be seen in a Braille map of England and Wales which is in use at the National Institute for the Blind. By means of its raised surface the curiously sensitive fingers of a blind man are able to make out the conformation of the country, to trace the course of its principal rivers, and he can literally put his finger on the important towns. The value of such a map for the blind cannot, of course, be overestimated, but the principle is one that might well be extended to maps used in schools. Physical features in these moulded maps stand out naturally, and the child, seeing actual differences, need no longer be confused by conventional symbols for mountains, streams and the rest.

AMERICAN PERCHERON HORSES

IT is appropriate that COUNTRY LIFE, which was first to draw prominent notice to the introduction to this country of Percheron horses from France during the last two or three years, should now be able to publish some striking pictures of the Percheron breed in America. They are the direct descendants of the old-established French breed, the Stud Book of which is so faithfully and jealously guarded, and they represent in themselves the successful efforts of the Percheron Society of America to maintain the purity of this fine breed of draught horses, while steadily improving from generation to generation their utility and splendid physical attributes. The British Society, which was only formed this year, has been engaged in putting its house in order, a process which has been made necessary by the observance of those legal formalities which must be associated with a public institution of the kind. One day this society will be extremely influential, supported as it is by encouragement in high places, and it was therefore most essential that the groundwork should be very carefully and correctly prepared.

The breed in England has been founded on notable importations from the Perche district of France. In that fact will lie its ultimate success. It is now nearly three years ago that a small party of Englishmen, among whom were the Earl of Lonsdale, the Director of Remounts (Major-General Sir W. H. Birkbeck, K.C.B., C.M.G.), and Mr. Henry Overman—who, besides being a large farmer in Norfolk and a breeder of Shire and Suffolk horses, has been the biggest buyer of heavy horses in this country for the Army—went to the annual Government inspection of

stallions and mares at Montagne in the Perche and, by permission of the French Government, made a number of purchases, which were brought to England. Those pioneer Percherons may be said to represent the nucleus of the breed in England. Their numbers have been added to since then as the result of private enterprise, and it is certainly not due to the lack of such enterprise that very many more have not been forthcoming. What has been a barrier has been the disinclination of the French Government to sanction further export, especially of mares. One is rather reminded in this connection of the rigid rule of the Arab chieftains against allowing Arab mares to be taken by the dealers from Arabia and the shores of the Persian

Gulf to India. It is why you would never find a mare among the hundreds of horses brought for sale into the Arab stables in Bombay. The Minister of Agriculture in France had to preserve the breed's future from the inroads of foreign admirers of the Percheron, especially as demands by purchase and then by impressment for the French and American Armies had the effect of seriously depleting the horse population of the Perche. Stallions might still be available in limited numbers for England, but, where mares are concerned, it now seems that for some time to come English admirers of the Percheron must look to America for mares.

Naturally, it is assumed that the British Society will admit into some part of their Stud Book mares which bear the hall-mark of inclusion in the American or Canadian Stud Books, and, therefore, the possibilities in this direction must, of course, appeal to them. It is why



CALYPSO: A CHICAGO CHAMPION.

Quarters standing out like the end of a barge



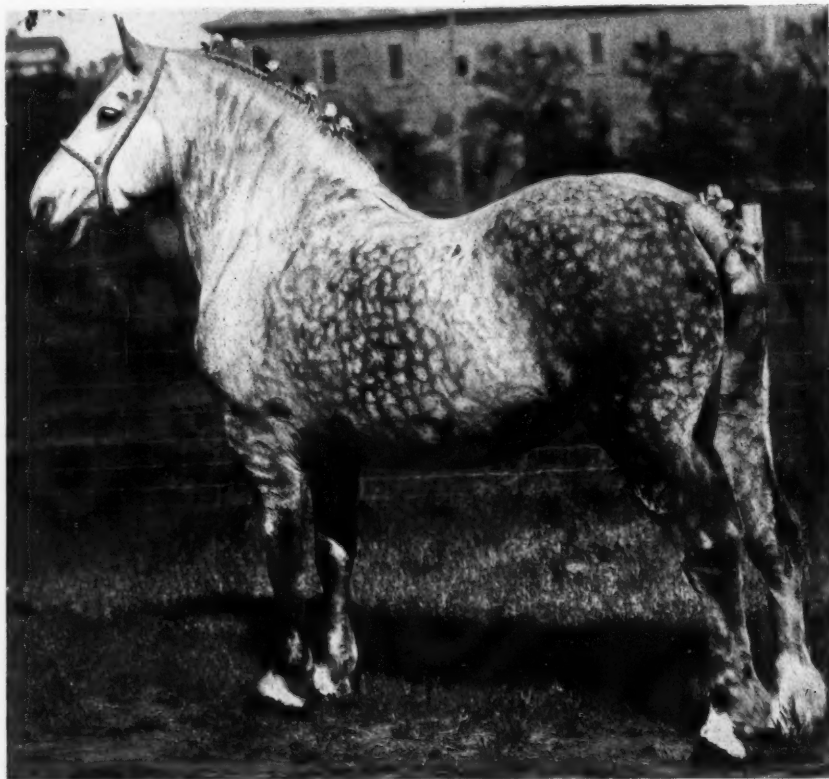
GREY MARES AND BLACK FOALS AT ILLINOIS.

the accompanying illustrations bear such special interest at this juncture. Another reason is that the true-bred Percheron of America is the origin of the graded Percheron draught horse which has been brought to Europe in hundreds of thousands during the last four years to horse the guns and transport of our armies and those of our Allies. Quarter, half and three-quarter bred Percherons have been bought in the middle and western states of America to the cost of many millions of pounds. In the vast majority of cases they have had Percheron written all over them—no other breed of horse so indelibly stamps its progeny as regards physique, stoutness, courage, docility, adaptability, soundness and hardiness.

These illustrations are additionally interesting for the reason that American Percherons are about to be imported to England. Shipping, of course, is a very real difficulty. That will be well understood and needs no emphasis, and it must restrict enterprise to comparatively small dimensions for some time to come. But already we hear of arrangements having been made for one interesting consignment, and no doubt an odd corner of deck space on a ship which is not primarily employed in conveying Army remounts will be secured in the immediate future whenever the chance may offer. Certainly it will be interesting to compare the American Percheron with the French Percheron already established in this country. How will they compare, for instance, as regards conformation, weight and quality? From a glance at the pictures we do not think the "Yanks" need fear comparison. We know that they have not been kept in America merely to look at. They are land horses first and foremost, bred for agriculture and for pulling heavy loads in the cities and towns of the United States. America is the home of the tractor plough and other mechanical means of preparing the land for seed and for cutting and reaping the crops. Yet the horse is still

indispensable there as he will continue to be here, at any rate in our time, so far as one can foresee.

Users of heavy draught horses in the United Kingdom must of necessity be interested in this latest development in horse importation. There is a great shortage of draught horses which the Shire, Clydesdale and Suffolk breeds cannot cope with. Why? For the very good reason that the Army has drained the country's resources. Therefore, as a draught horse, there is room and to spare for the Percheron here. But, apart from that, there are other recommendations to encourage his entry. Government and Army authorities are deeply impressed with his qualities as disclosed on active service in this war, as, indeed, readers of COUNTRY LIFE who have followed the series of articles on war horses published in this journal have every reason to know. That appreciation has extended and is still rapidly extending. Breeders who had scarcely heard of the Percheron prior to the war have become interested and impressed, and the shrewdest among them are anxious to be associated with the foundation movement. They see much profit as well as pleasure in being identified in a practical way with the breed's future. What could be more fascinating than the lines of the grey



GLADYS.

Weight-moving shoulders, short back, good middle, powerful quarters and splendid bone.

mare Gladys, champion at the Oklahoma Free State Fair last year? You notice the kind expression of the courageous eye, the boldly set-on head, the powerful neck and weight-moving shoulders, the grand short back and sturdy middle, the powerful quarters, and, the most important, perhaps, of all, the splendid bone, denoting strength and suggesting soundness. Or note the wonderful stallion character of the black horse with the white hind socks with quarters standing out like the end of a barge. This picture from real life might well have been taken from one of Rosa Bonheur's exuberant studies. Truly the oddly named Calypso with his symmetry of outline, indicating power and

grandeur in every line and curve, must wring a feeling of admiration from even those who only possess small knowledge of the draught horse, no matter with which breed they may be acquainted.

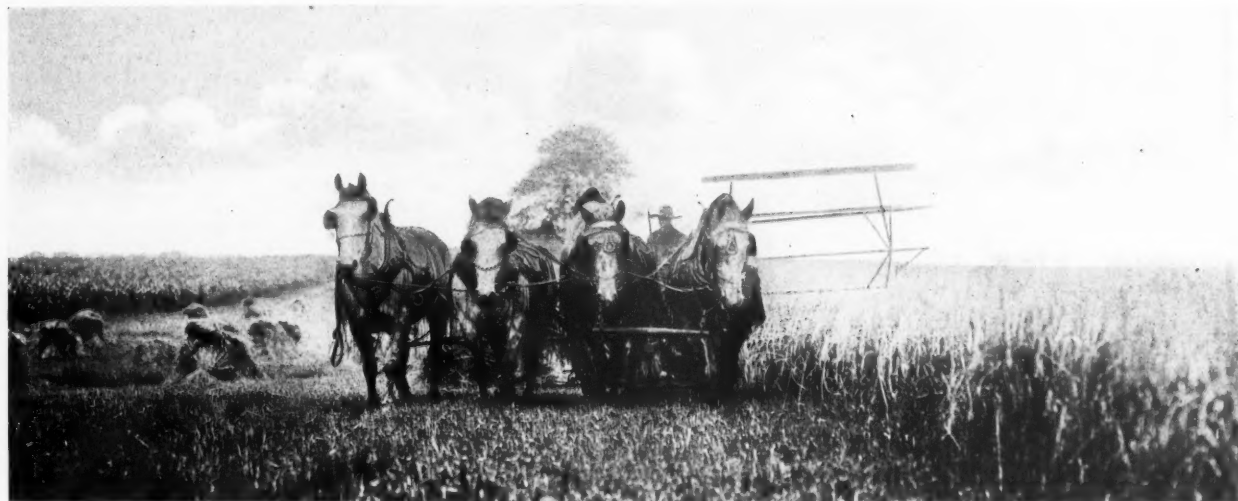
The reader will no doubt pause to admire the delightful picture of the Percheron mares and foals in the paddock. The photograph was taken at Farmer City, Illinois, and shows grey mares, one of the two prevailing colours. Many of the foals destined to be grey are born nearly black, and only assume their permanent colour as they grow older. Every breeder rejoices at the picture with which he is so familiar of mares and foals quietly grazing on abundant pasturage. Then we

come to stern and yet pleasant realities in contemplating American Percherons at work. We see them in what our



BROOD MARES IN A DISC HARROW.

harrow, with foals in the foreground, and in the reaper. This last picture shows a team of grade Percheron geldings—that is,



GRADE PERCHERON GELDINGS.

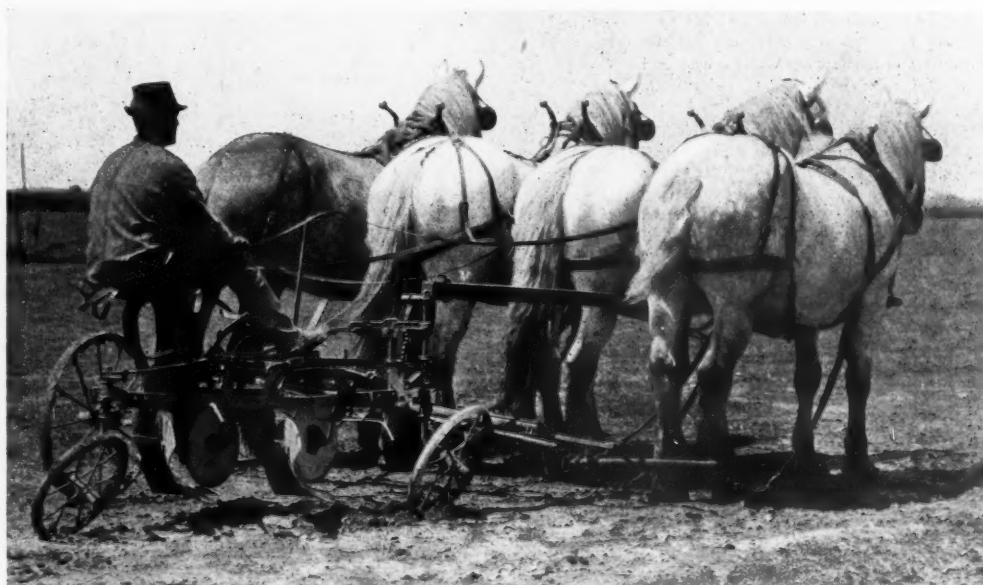
These horses are of the type used largely by our armies in France.

American friends call the side delivery rake—a delightful team, four abreast, of level and powerful greys—and also in the disc

they are not true bred Percherons, but have been brought to aid our armies in

France—owned by the Ohio College of Agriculture. Here we see them contentedly helping to reap America's bountiful and rich harvest. Such a scene has a specially significant and impressive touch for us. We know how vital for us has been America's contribution to our food supply. Here we see the gallant greys actually engaged in reaping the harvest of 1918 in the States, without which our position in the world war to day would not be as secure as it is. They are inspiring pictures, indicating, as they do, our great Ally's vast share in horsing our armies and in supplying our own food, and suggesting splendid possibilities as to the future of heavy horse breeding in the United Kingdom.

SIDNEY GALTREY.



PERCHERON MARES IN A SIDE DELIVERY RAKE.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL BOTANY

UNTIL comparatively recent times it was regarded as almost an axiom that the man of science and the practical man had little or nothing in common. In most cases the man of science failed to realise how the results of his researches could best be made available for the use of the community, while the practical man was filled with a fine scorn for the other, regarding him as but an idle dreamer and his work of no value for the common weal. This latter attitude was (and to some extent still is) specially marked among the agricultural community. The British farmer is proverbially slow to adopt new ideas, and tends to follow in the steps of his forefathers unless he has a very strong incentive to change. Such an incentive was supplied during the latter half of the last century by the work of Lawes and Gilbert at Rothamsted. Their researches with artificial fertilisers placed the agriculture of this country on a new footing, and the advance in crop yield and soil improvement due to the judicious use of fertilisers has been rapid. A point has now been reached at which it is realised that no further great advance in the yield and quality of crops is to be expected unless an improvement is effected in the varieties and strains of the seeds sown for agricultural purposes. This has long been understood on the Continent, and in many countries Government seed stations exist for the purpose of testing and improving agricultural seeds, the most famous being that of Svalof in Sweden. In our own country no public organisation has hitherto existed, but the first step in the right direction was taken a year ago by the establishment of the official Seed Testing Station. Since then a proposal has been made to set up a National Institute of Agricultural Botany, and the matter has been vigorously taken up and a scheme put forward by Sir Daniel Hall, Mr. Lawrence Weaver and others. The essential object of the Institute is to provide a connecting link between the scientific plant breeder and the commercial seed raiser and distributor, to the end that new varieties of agricultural seeds may deliberately be brought into being and, if worthy, be worked up into stocks large enough to be handled by the regular seed trade.

Scientific investigation has shown that it is possible, by means of judicious hybridising and selecting, to combine the good qualities of two or more varieties of a species into a single variety which will breed true if care be taken to keep the stock pure. For instance, many English wheats are capable of giving high yields, but, unfortunately, most of them suffer badly from the attack of yellow rust, which enfeebles the plants and decreases the crops. Professor Biffen of Cambridge has succeeded in crossing such a wheat with a Russian variety which is absolutely proof against rust, though its yielding capacity is exceedingly low. As a result a wheat has been obtained which gives good crops and yet is not susceptible to rust, and this, under the name of "Little Joss," is now largely grown in the Eastern Counties. To obtain such a result years of patient work are required, as it is essential to prove the permanence and purity of the hybrids concerned. Similar work has been done on barley by Mr. Beaven of Warminster, and in this way considerable improvements have already been made in the varieties of English wheat and barley. The work, however, is necessarily prodigal of time and money, and highly trained workers are essential to its progress. Consequently the other farm seeds have hitherto received little attention, and a vast unexplored field of possibilities exists in the oats, roots, clovers, grasses, potatoes and other farm crops. It is to be hoped that in the near future the extension of the work in this field may be rendered possible.

The plant breeder raises a new variety, selects, reseeds and tests his seeds until he is satisfied that the new stock will breed true and not revert in character or constitution to the original parents. At this stage his work is really done, but the quantity of the new seed is insufficient to be placed on the market for commercial use. In consequence it has hitherto been necessary to sacrifice many varieties which showed some promise in order to grow on one or two particular hybrids far enough to put them into the hands of the seed trade. This in itself is a great disadvantage, as the scientific man has rarely the inclination or ability to devote his time to commercial work. At this point the proposed Institute of Agricultural Botany at Cambridge will step in. As soon as a new variety has been sufficiently tested and proved to be permanent and promising, it will be taken over altogether from the plant breeder, who will then be free to devote his attention to other problems. The Institute will grow on the new seed from year to year until the stock is large enough to be placed on the market. At this stage it will be handed over entirely to the seed trade and will pass into circulation among the farmers through the ordinary channels, so that no question of competition between the Institute and the trade can ever arise. For the scheme to be successful it is essential that the seedsmen of the country shall be in hearty agreement with it and be prepared to co-operate and further its interests to the uttermost, and it is already evident that such co-operation will be forthcoming in full measure.

In order that the Institute may benefit agriculture in all parts of the kingdom, it will be necessary for means to be available whereby the test experiments may be carried on in different parts of the country. The varieties of seeds that will grow best

in any place are determined by many factors, including soil, climate, rainfall and geographical position. It often happens that a particular variety that grows badly in one place is most prolific and successful in another. If, therefore, the experiments were to be confined to one locality, the varieties most suitable to that district would manifest themselves and be developed, but those that would flourish under other conditions would run the risk of being rejected and lost. To avoid this one-sided selection the seeds might be "farmed out" to agriculturists throughout the country, but this method involves the great objection that effective oversight is difficult, and doubts would arise as to the purity of the stocks so raised. Far better results would be obtained if several farms varying in soil and climate were attached to the Institute and were devoted entirely to the work of seed raising. The ordinary rotation of crops could be followed, as all kinds of farm seeds would be receiving attention, so that no special cultural difficulties would arise. If four such farms totalling about 2,000 acres of first-rate arable land were placed at the disposal of the Institute by public-spirited landowners, it would be possible to carry out the work with the thoroughness that it demands.

Such a scheme inevitably costs money in the beginning. It is estimated that at least £50,000 is required to establish the administrative centre at Cambridge and to found a small endowment fund. Of this amount £35,000 has already been secured, as warm support has been accorded in many quarters, but it is hoped that the full sum will be forthcoming with the least possible delay. When once the Institute is in full working order it should rapidly become self supporting, and it is anticipated that profitable balances will eventually be available for the extension of the work in various directions. The closest relations will be maintained with the Plant Breeding Station at Cambridge, and in order further to co-ordinate the whole of the work it is proposed to make the Government Seed Testing Station an integral part of the Institute.

The new venture may also serve another end. Seed farming entails an amount of work of a light nature such as does not occur on an ordinary farm. Stray plants of wrong varieties have to be weeded out in order to keep the stocks pure, and the seeds require drying, sorting and cleaning before they are stored or sent away. This work could easily be carried out by partially disabled men discharged from the Army, and it is proposed to utilise the services of such men as far as practicable. It is suggested that these workers should have a financial interest in the profits of the farms, and if this is carried into effect it will ensure a high standard of work being maintained.

It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of this undertaking. Now, as never before, we are realising the urgent importance of raising as much home-grown food as possible. Much has already been done in extending the area of land under cultivation, but there are limits to such extension, and further progress must be in the direction of increased crop yields rather than increased acreage. The choice of the seed sown has much to do with the quantity and quality of the crop, and progress will be rapid when, for any particular district, it is possible to obtain seeds specially adapted to the conditions of soil and climate, free from liability to disease, and combining high quality with heavy cropping capacity. The corn production of Southern Sweden has been increased by 30 per cent. as a result of the work of the Svalof Institute, and if a corresponding measure of success were obtained in this country with a wider range of agricultural seeds, the security of our food supply would be more than assured. The opportunity for progress is exceptional, and if the proposed National Institute receives the support it deserves, the whole country will reap the benefit of the improvement in agriculture that will be rendered possible.

WINIFRED E. BRENCHLEY.

IN THE GARDEN

HARVESTING HARICOT BEANS.

BY the end of September the seeds of Haricot Beans should be ripe for harvesting. The Beans should be allowed to mature on the plants, and the whole plants be pulled up and hung up on wires by their roots in a dry place to ripen off. They may be tied up in bundles and ripened in a dry, airy shed, just like Sweet Peas when saved for seed.

When thoroughly ripened the Beans drop readily from the pods, and at this stage the pods should be placed in sacks and beaten, after which the Beans may be screened off. It is important that the Beans should be quite hard and dry before they are stored for the winter. As the harvesting of Haricots in this country is new to many, it is not surprising that mistakes happen. We are mindful of one lady who had bad luck with her crop of Dutch Brown Beans last year. Her gardener-substitute, thinking that the Beans were finished for the year, cleared the ground in which they were growing in September and threw them all on the bonfire!

Now that the yellowing of the foliage seems to be general, it is a good plan, more especially with dwarf varieties, to remove, say, one half of the leaves in order that the sun and air may ripen the pods.

While many growers prefer to harvest the whole crop at one gathering, there are small growers who find it more economical

to do the work piecemeal and to remove the pods as they ripen. In a wet September such as we are having in the South this year there is much to be said in favour of this procedure, for the mature pods may grow mouldy and rot before the later ones are fit to gather. We find the practice among allotment workers is to pick the pods separately and to lay them out in a warm, sunny room until the pods are crisp, when after shelling and final drying the seeds are prepared for storage.

In case there are any who are not acquainted with the fact, it should be explained that the seed of any of the Runner Beans and the so-called French Beans may be saved for winter use, as Haricots. Of the Runner Beans the white-seeded varieties, such as Mammoth White, White Czar and White Emperor, are preferred, but it should be perfectly understood that the coloured and mottled seeds of scarlet runners are quite wholesome. The three white varieties mentioned all mature early; they are grown on sticks or poles just like ordinary Runner Beans, which in fact they are, but the white seeds when dried are of better flavour than the kiln dried Butter Beans or green Haricots.

The Lima Bean, a large, flat, white Bean, which is imported to this country in large quantities, is a native of South America, where it is found growing as a wild perennial in the Amazon basin of Brazil. It is usually sold under the name of Butter Bean by the grocer. All efforts to cultivate it in this country have been unsuccessful because of its late maturity.

Of the dwarf varieties none is more popular than the noted Dutch Brown. It has proved a prolific yielder in many gardens and allotments this year; it is, in fact, one of the most welcome additions to the kitchen garden within recent years, and there must be very few gardens where the Dutch Brown is unknown. This year the shiny brown seeds are a feature of many vegetable shows we have visited. Of the numerous reports we have had concerning the Dutch Brown Bean all speak well of its cropping propensities. It does not appear to be generally known that Peas may be dried in the same way. Marrowfat Peas dry as well as other

varieties, though there is a tendency for the seeds to turn yellow and shrivel, but they are none the worse for cooking. The variety Harrison's Glory is extensively grown in East Anglia, and this variety has been grown in reclaimed land at Methwold and Tangye with considerable success as a field Pea for drying. When sufficiently ripened the Peas with haulm are stacked and afterwards threshed, the dried Peas being sold to grocers. When stored for home use the Peas are simply put away in boxes and kept in a dry place until required, when they are soaked overnight in warm water with a pinch of bicarbonate of soda before cooking. A still better method of storing Peas is to gather them young and after shelling to put them in a pot of slightly salted water. Bring them to boiling point, then drain them at once and spread them on a cloth to remove all moisture. Put them on a baking sheet in a cool oven to get hard, when they should be kept dry until required for use.

This year the Royal Horticultural Society—to whom we owe the popularity of the Dutch Brown Bean—have an extensive trial of climbing Beans of all kinds in their gardens at Wisley, Ripley, Surrey. The Beans are now (September 23rd) at their best. There are 139 stocks in the collection, and comparisons may be readily made of their habit of growth and cropping qualities. Considering the high food value of these plants, we feel sure that they are much too little cultivated. The use of the pod in the green state is well known to all, but comparatively few realise the value of many varieties, such as the Wax Pods, for cooking whole, the usefulness and high food value of the half ripe seeds, and the possibility of growing Haricot Beans for storing dry and for use in winter. All varieties are useful, but differences in yield, colour and flavour make some more desirable than others. The varieties to gain awards as Runner Beans after trial at Wisley are: First-class certificate to Prizewinner, sent by Messrs. Dickson and Robinson; awards of merit to A 1 and Scarlet, sent by Messrs. Sutton and Sons; and Scarlet Emperor, sent by Messrs. Carter and Co.

H. C.

LONDON SALON OF PHOTOGRAPHY

IN our notice of the London Salon last week we remarked that the only effect of the war that sprang to the eye was the large preponderance of portraits and figure studies, due to the restrictions regarding outdoor photography.

That this observation was not wholly true may be seen from the photographs reproduced in these pages, but as a general statement it holds good. The number of pictures having any

bearing upon the war can be counted upon one's fingers. The failure of the exhibition to portray the war is greatly to be regretted. And for this reason: photography, as has already been remarked, has reached a stage in its development where it can be, and is daily being employed as a medium of artistic expression, free at once from the vagaries which enmeshed it in the past and from the more obvious dangers of unconscious



"THE GATE OF GOOD-BYE," BY F. J. MORTIMER, IN THE LONDON SALON.

exaggeration that so often is noticeable in the work of pictorial artists. One has only to look at Mr. Mortimer's "The Gate of Goodbye" to realise the enormous value which such a record of such a, to us, familiar and poignant scene must have for those who will come after us; so, too, the magnificent photograph, free from trickery and "working up," of a work-a-day representation of the "cavalry of the clouds."

Here are pictures which from the very mode of their production have an intrinsic worth of their own and a peculiar value as records which not even the pictures by Mr. Nevinson or Mr. Paul Nash and the many other official artists can have.

To say that every phase of the war has been photographed is doubtless true, but while we recognise to the full the value of the innumerable photographs which have appeared in the Press and elsewhere there still remains an important piece of work for the photographer whose pictures are not the hasty

pictures, but so would many a munition girl or 'bus conductor, ticket collector, land girl, and the rest of the splendid army of women workers, scarcely any of whom have a portrait in the Salon; unless, indeed, she be in mufti, and we have missed her under a veil of chiffon.

Then there are in the countryside, where permission to photograph if needed is readily obtained, hosts of opportunities of showing changes that have come over husbandry. The photographer may say that a tractor plough, for example, is but a poor thing to make a picture compared with horses, but if Mr. Pennell or Mr. Muirhead Bone or Mr. Nevinson can give grace and fascination to mechanical things not only in the mass but in their detail as well, the photographer should not own himself beaten in attempting to portray in his own peculiar and invaluable way things similar.

It is greatly to be hoped that next year's Salon, even if the war be over, may reflect a little more than this



"THE CAVALRY OF THE CLOUDS": AN OFFICIAL R.A.F. PHOTOGRAPH IN THE LONDON SALON.

productions of the newspaper photographer, but the fine and careful work of such as show their prints in the Salon and elsewhere.

There are up and down the country countless phases of national life that are either changed out of recognition or so modified by war-time necessity as to deserve setting on record for posterity. Now, not all of these things will be done by the news-photographer, even if we were satisfied with his doing of the work, because many of the subjects have not that news value which is the first consideration in the mind of the newspaper photographer, but most of them might give opportunity to the pictorial photographer and should provide him with the chance of rendering a service that will win the appreciation of all who are jealous for the art of the photographer as well as of the historian and teacher of the future.

Looking round the Salon a second time with this thought in mind one is a little saddened to see how much skill and resource have been employed for the photographing of actresses and professional models. All of them, or almost all, make charming

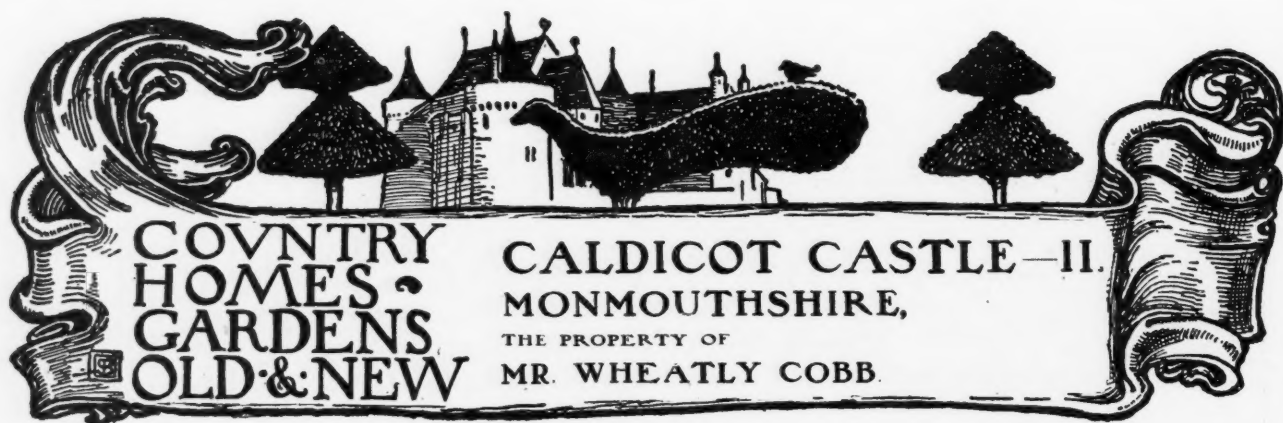
year's exhibition the changes which have passed over our national life.

That this criticism does not arise from a failure to recognise the excellence of modern photographic work has already been made abundantly clear; it does, on the contrary, spring from a desire that such fine perception and good craftsmanship should not be frittered away on subjects that are not wholly worthy, except perhaps as exercises in treatment, and studies in light and form. The photographer is too important a person not to be seriously criticised. He can do work that no one else can do, and, as it happens, the work which is waiting to his hand has the special attraction of combining the functions of utility and art. Art, indeed, in its highest manifestations must serve some purpose in the economy of life, and because photography has ceased to be a plaything it must expect to find itself confronted with the highest standard of performance; the photographer can ask no better tribute to his work than this. The lead has already been given, and should provide stimulus enough for other workers.

M.



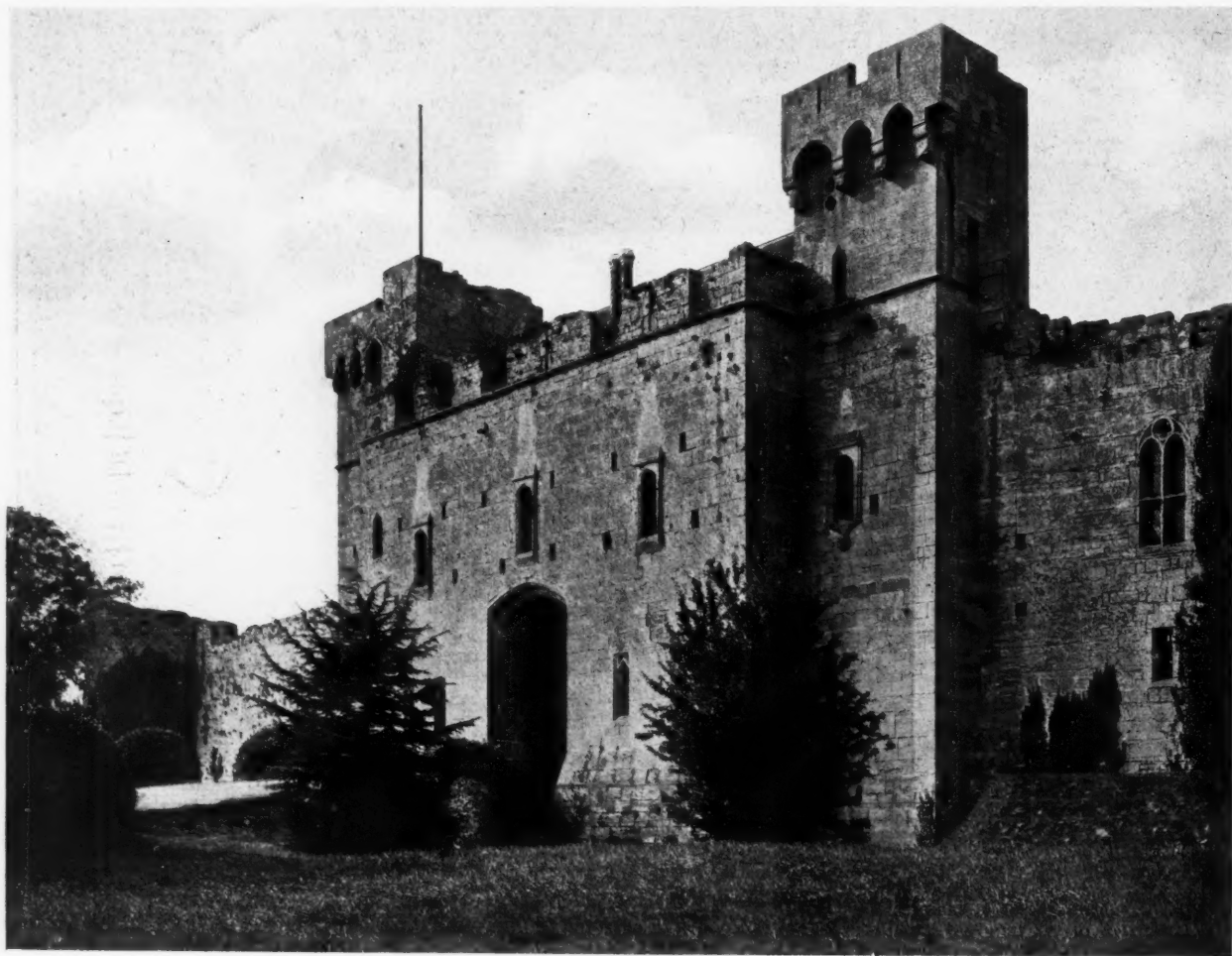
"SAFE IN PORT," BY F. J. MORTIMER, IN THE LONDON SALON.



IF Bohun and Bigod broke the law of the land in 1289 and thus incurred penalty at the hands of the King, they were able to reply to him with a *tu quoque* argument eight years later. Summoned by him for foreign service in a campaign where he was not himself to be present, the Marshal and the Constable answered, that with him "going before his face and in the front rank," they would willingly serve as was the right and duty of their high hereditary offices, but that it was no part of their constitutional obligation to go without him. "By God! you shall either go or hang," exclaimed the angry King. "The answer to the alternative is in the negative," would be the parliamentary version of the much more racy reply of the Earls, who carried their point and made things rather awkward for Edward. That was the last of Bohun's public acts, for in 1298 he was succeeded by his son, the eighth Humphrey and fourth Earl of Hereford. There was now no ill feeling between King and Constable, for in 1302 the latter married the former's daughter, Eleanor, widow of the Count of Holland. To adequately house his royal wife when in Monmouthshire the young Earl may have elaborated Caldicot, adding to its amenity, if not to its strength. But of the scope and character of the Edwardian work there or of the plan of the Castle at that period we can speak but indefinitely, because of the

large renovations which revolutionised both appearance and disposition at the close of the fourteenth century. The south-east curtain wall seems then to have been rebuilt, so that the fine windows illustrated last week may not even be in their original site. The earliest hall of the Castle will have been the upper floor of the south-east tower where the remains of an exceptionally fine hooded fireplace are still observable. The third or fourth Earl of Hereford probably made a greater and finer hall next door to it. Certainly walls of later date have been found "full of pieces of rich moulding adorned with four-leaved flowers and fragments of elegant pinnacles." The chief window of Bigod's oratory at Chepstow retains its four-leaved moulding, and the built-in oddments at Caldicot may have formed parts of a chapel of which the foundations, near the later gate-house, are traceable and are cross-hatched on the plan. But these foundations may have been those of a hall of which the windows were afterwards re-used at the rebuilding of the curtain wall where they are now situate. There are no positive data that enable us to bring the Caldicot of the Bohuns out of the realm of conjecture.

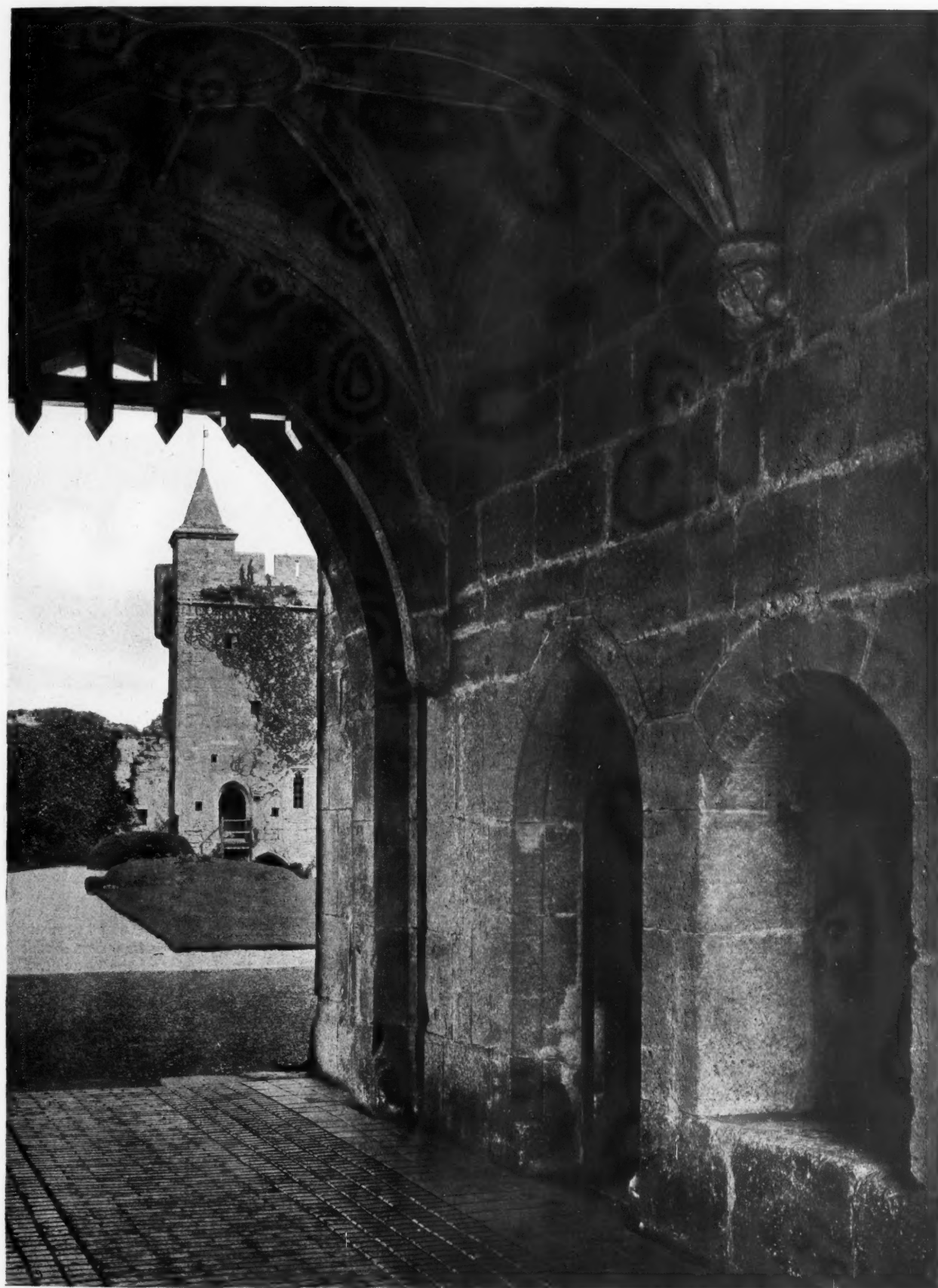
The fourth Earl of Hereford was with Edward I in the Scottish Expedition of 1300, when Carlaverock in Nithsdale was taken, the capture being narrated by Walter, a monk of



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3.—CALDICOT CASTLE: THE GATE-HOUSE.

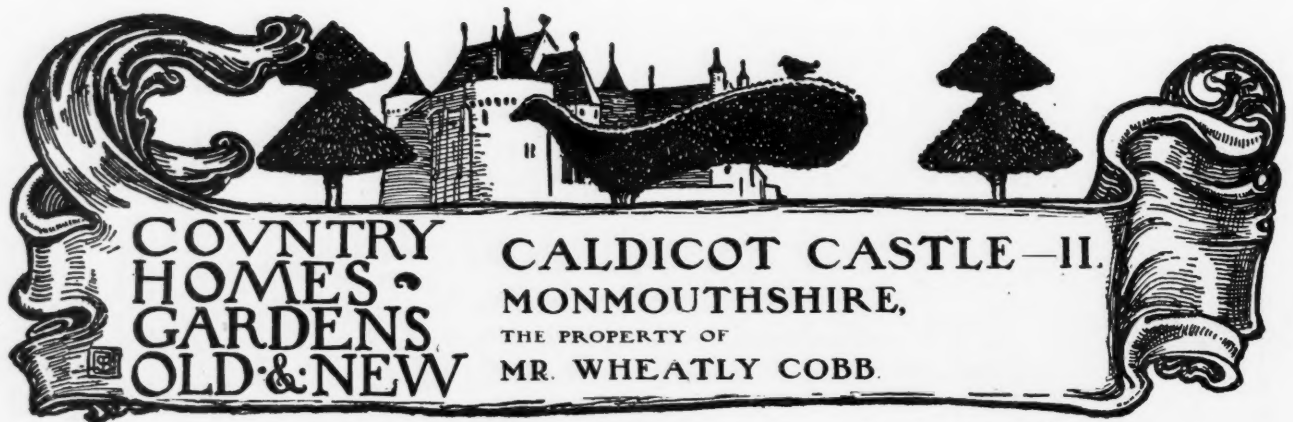
"COUNTRY LIFE."



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2.—THE WOODSTOCK TOWER SEEN THROUGH THE GATEWAY.

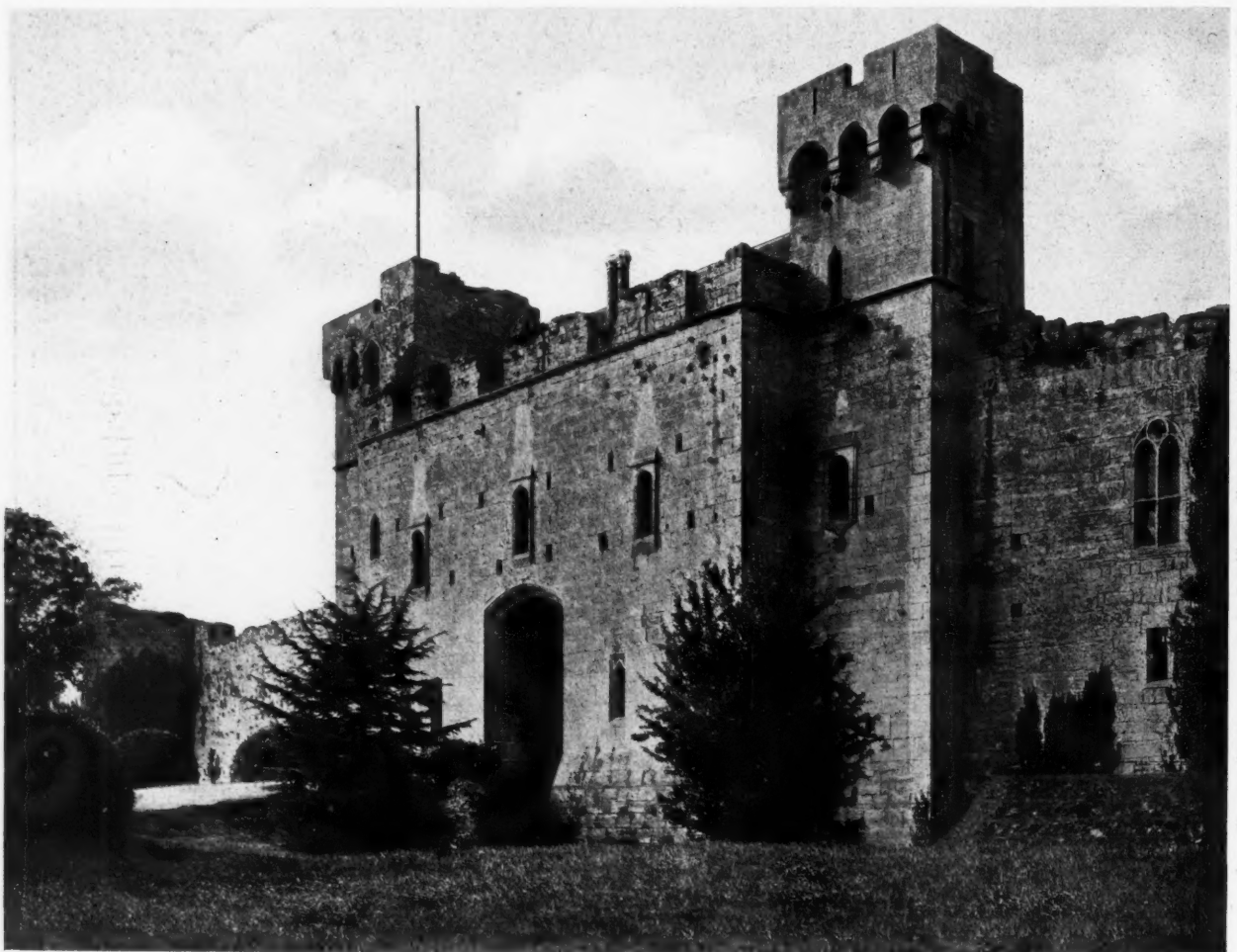
"COUNTRY LIFE."

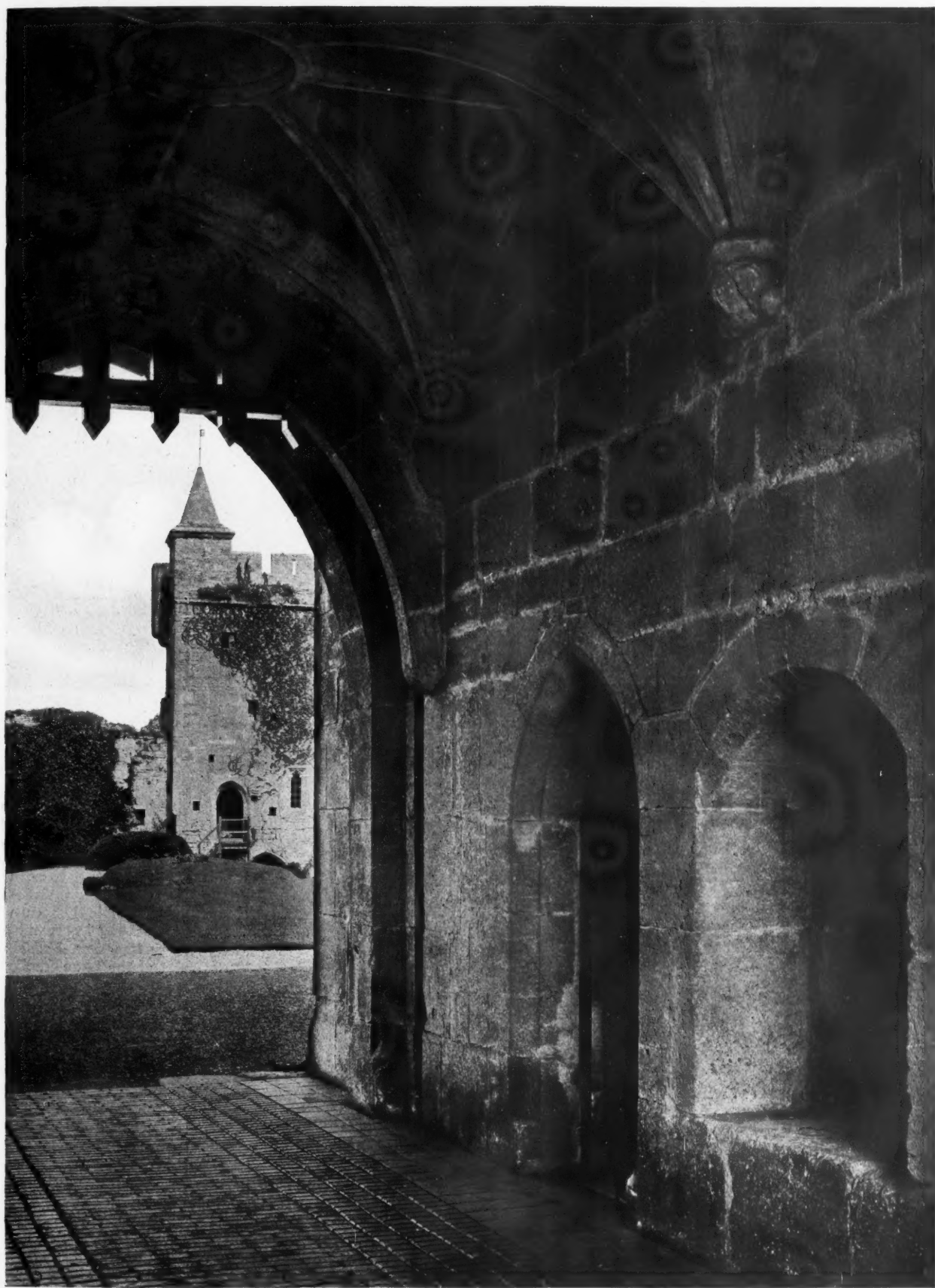


IF Bohun and Bigod broke the law of the land in 1289 and thus incurred penalty at the hands of the King, they were able to reply to him with a *tu quoque* argument eight years later. Summoned by him for foreign service in a campaign where he was not himself to be present, the Marshal and the Constable answered, that with him "going before his face and in the front rank," they would willingly serve as was the right and duty of their high hereditary offices, but that it was no part of their constitutional obligation to go without him. "By God! you shall either go or hang," exclaimed the angry King. "The answer to the alternative is in the negative," would be the parliamentary version of the much more racy reply of the Earls, who carried their point and made things rather awkward for Edward. That was the last of Bohun's public acts, for in 1298 he was succeeded by his son, the eighth Humphrey and fourth Earl of Hereford. There was now no ill feeling between King and Constable, for in 1302 the latter married the former's daughter, Eleanor, widow of the Count of Holland. To adequately house his royal wife when in Monmouthshire the young Earl may have elaborated Caldicot, adding to its amenity, if not to its strength. But of the scope and character of the Edwardian work there or of the plan of the Castle at that period we can speak but indefinitely, because of the

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2.—THE WOODSTOCK TOWER SEEN THROUGH THE GATEWAY.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



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3.—MACHICOLATION OF ONE OF THE GATE-HOUSE TURRETS.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



Copyright.

4.—THE GATE-HOUSE.

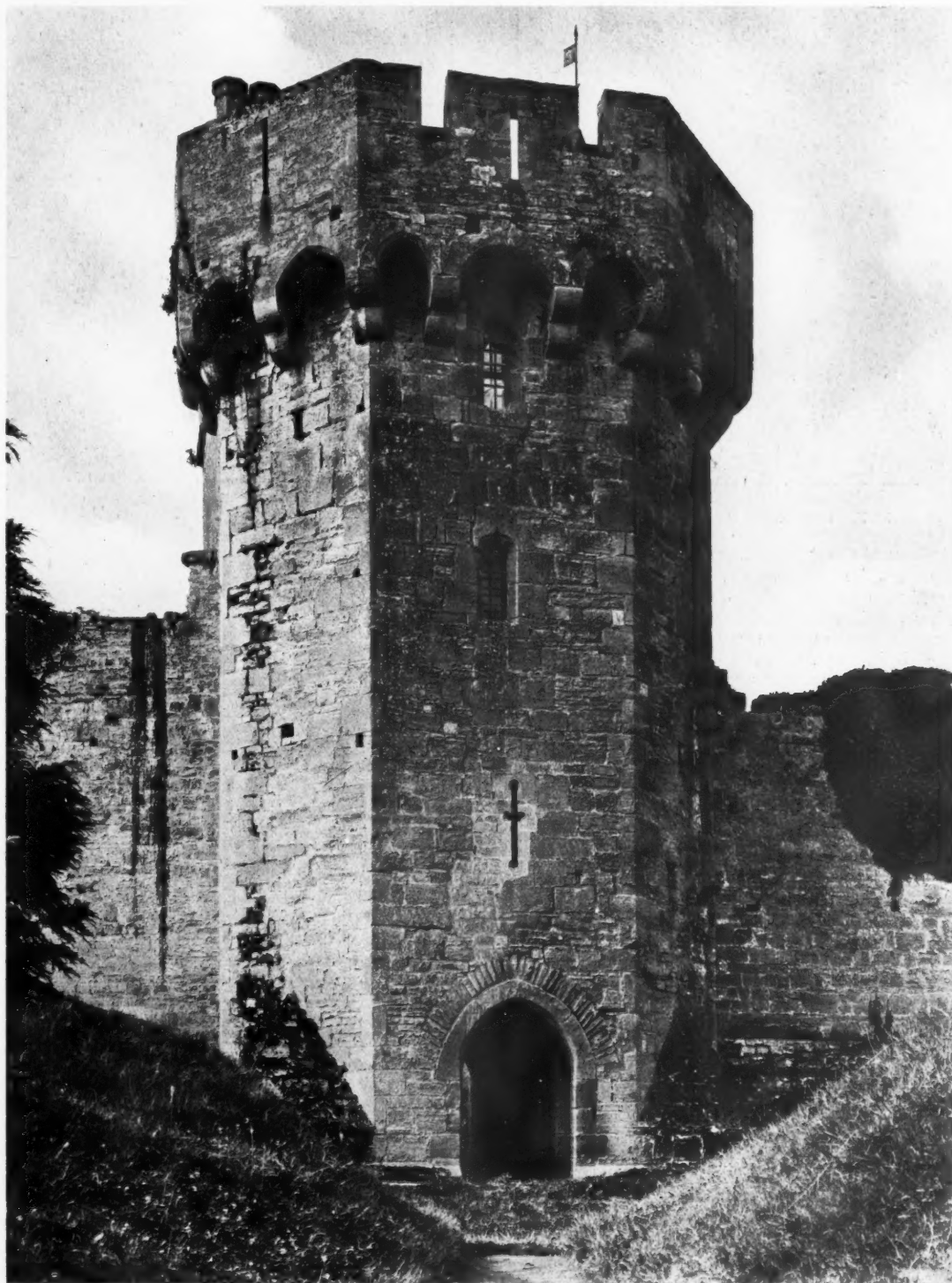
"COUNTRY LIFE."

Exeter, in a Norman French poem reciting the characters and exploits of the nobles and knights present. Hereford is "a rich and elegant young man" whose blue silk banner, adorned by six lioncels rampant, was, in right of his Constableness, one of those planted on the summit of the captured Castle. With the accession of Edward II he found himself amid tumult and disaster. The new King was his brother-in-law, but was ruled by favourites whom the English barons could not brook. Hereford was of those who, headed by the King's cousin, Thomas of Lancaster, rose in arms against the ascendancy of Piers Gaveston and witnessed his summary execution in 1312. Two years later the Constable is with the King in the campaign that ended disastrously at Bannockburn. The King escaped and reached Berwick in flight. But Hereford was among those captured and Gloucester was slain. An exchange soon restored the former to liberty, but he soon found a new favourite threatening his western possessions. As husband to one of Gloucester's sisters, Hugh le Despencer was given the Glamorgan lordship of the Clare family, and aimed at dominion in South Wales, so that he was soon embroiled with his neighbours, the other Lords Marchers, including Hereford. Again under Lancaster's leadership, they form an association to drive Despencer from the kingdom, seize London, and, holding a Parliament, banish the favourite in 1321. But next year the King has gained strength and Lancaster made enemies. The hostile barons retreat to Yorkshire, and in the defeat of

Boroughbridge Hereford is slain and Lancaster captured and executed.

The fourth Earl of Hereford was succeeded in turn by two sons and a grandson. With the death of the last in 1372 the male line of Bohun ended and his two young daughters became wards of the Crown with a view to the partition of their vast inheritance between two cadets of the Royal House, to whom they should be given in marriage. Accordingly, before his death in 1377 Edward III married Eleanor de Bohun to his youngest son, Thomas of Woodstock,

Mr. Cobb considers that the original "main entrance was on the west, under the Bohun Tower." Whether that is so, or whether Thomas of Woodstock pulled down a southern gate-house before erecting a new one in its stead, cannot be positively stated. The typical Edwardian gate-house, as exemplified at Chepstow, consisted of two round towers flanking the archway and the room over it. Of the Caldicot gate-house Mr. Cobb tells us that it "was to be flanked by two round towers, rising from square and deeply splayed bases. . . . Just as they had reached the point where the



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5.—THE WOODSTOCK TOWER.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

who obtained the Constabship, the Essex Earldom with Pleshey, and the Caldicot estates, including the Castle. By his nephew, Richard II, he was created Duke of Gloucester in 1385. His wife, whom he had married as a child, was only then coming of age, so her husband had merely been holding the Bohun inheritance as custodian until that event happened. The great works which were certainly carried out at Caldicot during his period of ownership were, therefore, probably not begun till after that date. Of them the principal survivals are the great gate-house on the south (Fig. 4) and the postern or Woodstock Tower on the north (Fig. 5).

square began to die into the round, the plans were altered." The round may have been an intended renewal of what was there before. The adopted plan was altogether different. A straight façade, permitting no enfilading of the archway if attacked, was constructed, and slightly recessed from it rose turrets for garderobes. These, like the new northern tower, were surmounted with a bold and ornate machicolation (Fig. 3). But its detail was mostly a re-use of Bohun material. The heads are not a set and do not fit. The arches they support are each composed of two stones not hewn and worked for the purpose, but portions of the tracery



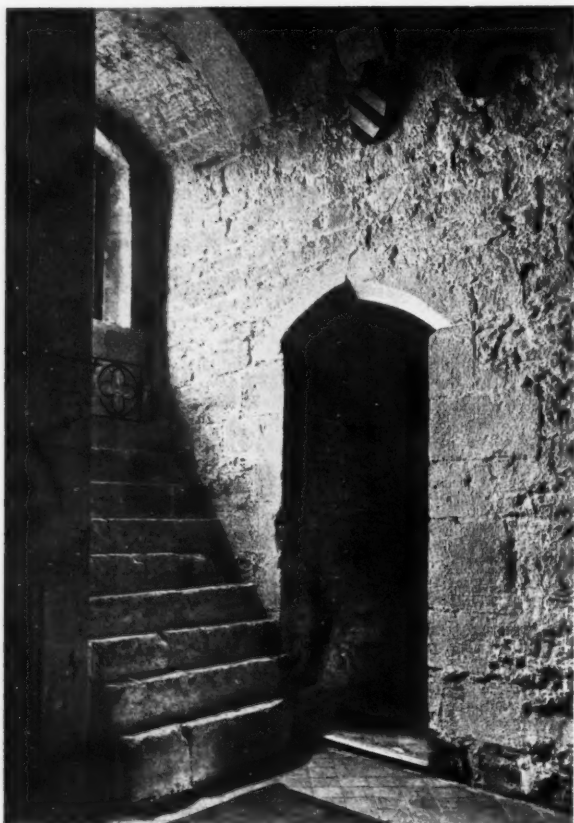
6.—IN THE WEST GUARD-ROOM.

of great windows of the Edwardian period. Except for some of the top stones the western turret is intact. The eastern one (Fig. 1) had entirely lost its upper storey when Mr. Cobb's father purchased the Castle thirty-four years ago. It had, however, been much more perfect when Buck made a drawing of it in 1732, and the details he showed, such as the two perforated quatrefoils, were adopted for the renovation. The most regrettable destruction, however, was that of the very unusual framing of the upper windows. These project on bracketed window sills and had hoods over them. The brackets of the turret windows are elaborate,



7.—FIREPLACE IN THE GREAT CHAMBER.

rising from a mask. The hoods of the central windows were probably ornate and long, judging from the extensive gaps which were caused by their destruction. These central windows, on the north as well as on the south side, lit a great chamber occupying the whole of the upper floor above the gateway and the guard-rooms. This was probably built to accommodate the Duchess and was reached by a vaulted stairway (Fig. 9) rising from the courtyard. The steep flight to the left are the steps that give into the great chamber. Those through the central arch go on up to the roof, while the archway to the right opens on to the air! There is no trace



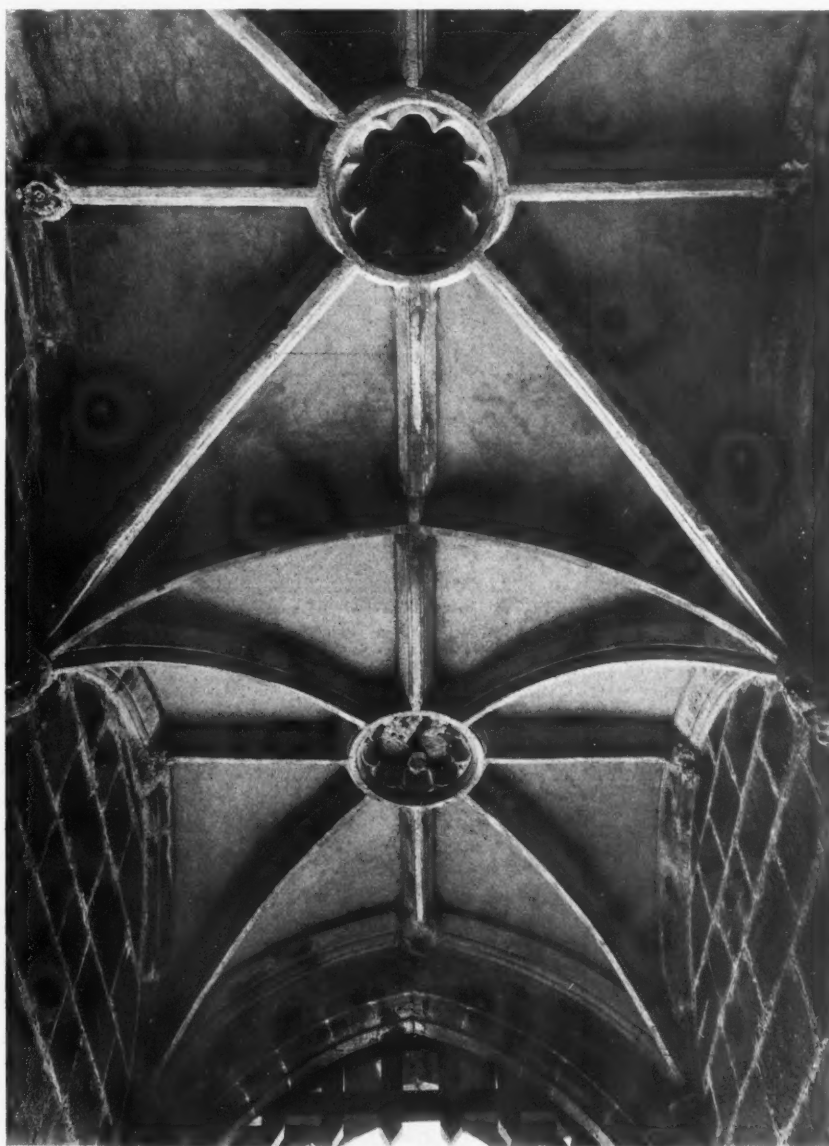
Copyright. 8.—IN THE EAST GUARD-ROOM.



9.—THE STAIRWAY OF THE GREAT CHAMBER. "C.L."

of a building against the curtain wall west of the gate-house, though a few yards away from it are the foundations of the detached building which we conjectured had been a Bohun chapel or hall. Mr. Cobb's suggestion is that Thomas of Woodstock pulled this down with a view to building a new chapel against the curtain wall, with an undercroft raising its floor to a level with the first flight of steps up to his wife's apartment. The abrupt termination of the Duke's life at the age of forty-two will fully account for the unfinished state in which the Castle was left. Had it been completed, the Duchess would have easily reached the chapel on one side of her chamber and the hall on the other. To obtain the latter as he wished the Duke will have pulled down and reconstituted the curtain wall east of the gate-house, and lit his new first floor rooms to the south with the Edwardian windows illustrated last week, and, no doubt, to the north, with large windows of his own era. The great chamber is now broken up into several rooms, but the main portion of it forms the present drawing-room (Fig. 7) and shows the excellent arrangement of the square-headed fireplace structurally connected with the archways to the window recesses. The mouldings of the fireplace jambs and of the lower part of the archway are worked on the same stones. The window recesses are filled with seats reached up three steps, but in the guard-rooms on the ground floor there is a much more serious climb for anyone wishing to see out of window. Especially is this the case in the eastern guard-room, now used as a dining-room, where the windows looking into the courtyard are placed on either side of the fireplace and have sills 7ft. from the ground. As there are doorways in the return walls, the steps up can occupy little more than the wall thickness (Fig. 8) and are many and steep. The guard-rooms are divided by a wide archway open in the one case, but in the other (Fig. 6) largely filled in, a lesser archway within the greater giving access to a chimney-fitted alcove. Between the guard-rooms runs the deep entrance passage (Fig. 2), protected at either end by a portcullis and having a vault with moulded ribs springing from sculptured corbels and rising to foliated circles (Fig. 10). Through the inner archway is seen the postern tower occupying the middle of the northern curtain wall. Except at the top there is little renewal. The entrance doorway to the ground floor is seen to be a little higher than the ground level, for below it is an arched passage opening to the north on to the Castle ditch, and fairly deep down into it. Although the marsh land was a protection to the Castle its ditch was above water level and was dry. As there are no steps, but an easy incline within the court down to the level of the postern arch, this entrance was adapted for horsemen and no doubt was in customary use, rather than the main entrance, where, when the portcullises were up, they must have sadly disfigured my lady's apartment into which they rose, the northern one, indeed, forming a grillage in front of the fireplace. The Woodstock Tower with its bold machicolation to the north stands nobly up from the ditch (Fig. 5). On one of the lower stones of its entrance arch is carved a quatrefoil panel with the word "Thomas" within it. Hence we may infer that the Duke himself laid the foundation of this tower while his Duchess did the same to a building near by, for the plan shows a cross-hatched rectangle lying south of the tower which represents the foundations of a structure, and there we find another stone, similarly treated, but bearing the word "Alianore." Other buildings, of timber construction, no doubt, were set against the curtain wall, which was largely rebuilt and had chimneys with square headed and moulded fire openings set into it. Although not yet complete, Caldicot

Castle must have been a defended house with much and stately accommodation when the tragedy occurred that ended its owner's career. His eldest brother, John of Gaunt, had taken the lead when their nephew, Richard, became King in 1377 at the age of eleven. But when John went abroad to try and win the crown of Castile, Thomas aimed at control and was head of the council that deprived the young King of all power in 1386. For three years he and the other "appellants" ruled. Then Richard took courage to dismiss them and seize the reins of government. But he made no open move against Thomas, for John of Gaunt, returning to England, effected a seeming reconciliation between nephew and uncle. This continued until 1396, when Thomas began to plot for the recovery of his ascendancy. The King pretended ignorance of this and bided his time. But on the evening of July 10th, accompanied by the London



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10.—THE VAULT OF THE GATEWAY. "COUNTRY LIFE."

Trained Bands, he set out for Pleshey, which was reached early next morning. Gloucester came out to meet him at the head of a solemn procession of the priests and clerks of his newly founded college. As he bent in obeisance, Richard, with his own hand, arrested him and, leading the procession to the chapel, assured his "bel oncle" that all would turn out for the best. After breakfast Richard returned to London, but Gloucester was taken in custody direct to Calais, where Mowbray, the Earl Marshal and his enemy, was Governor. Here he shortly ended his days—not "of fever," as was reported to Parliament, but, as an eyewitness afterwards related, murdered by smothering between two feather beds. The attain and forfeiture that followed did not last long as Richard was soon to share the fate of his uncle. Caldicot was restored to Duchess "Alianore" in 1399. Her only son was already dead and she shortly followed him to the grave. There is little more to be said

of Caldicot. Through Gloucester's eldest daughter it passed to the Staffords, Dukes of Buckingham, who all met violent deaths. At one time it was occupied by a cadet of the house, Henry Stafford, the second husband of Margaret Beaufort, Henry VII's mother, who, Leland tells us, stayed at Caldicot before the birth of that King. The Yorkist triumph for a time deprived the Lancastrian Staffords of their great estates. Henry, second Duke, was, however, restored in blood by Edward IV and, assisting Richard III to seize the throne in 1483, obtained all he asked for from that King. He became Lord High Constable, and additional estates, as "cosyn and heir in blood of Humphrey Bohun Earl of Hereford," were conferred on him. For a few months he was almost King of Wales, being Constable of all the royal castles there with right of levying force. His own castle of Brecon was his headquarters, but Caldicot no doubt saw him. Brief, however, was his day of fortune. The year had not ended before he turned against Richard and, gathering, among others, his Brecon and Caldicot tenants and retainers about him in armed array, sought to pass into England and there join others of Richard's enemies. But that autumn there was abnormal rainfall in Mid-Wales, and Wye and Severn rose in excessive flood. The turbid torrent prevented all crossing and was long remembered as "the Duke of Buckingham's Water." His men, rationed and equipped for a few days only, began to slink homewards. Cut off from a return into Wales by a superior force under Vaughan of Tretower, the Duke fled north in disguise, which was revealed by one of his Shropshire tenants, greedy of the reward. Only four months after he had aided Richard to the kingship he laid his head upon the block. His son, restored by Henry VII,

came to a like end under Henry VIII, and Caldicot was annexed to the Duchy of Lancaster and so remained for 300 years. It became deserted and disused. Very likely on the fall of the last Buckingham it lay open to popular destruction and was wrecked and defaced. Exactly what happened was forgotten even in 1613, when a Court of Survey found "that there is an old Auntient Castle in Caldicott and that it is in ruin and decay, but the cause of the decay thereof they cannot present, for it was before the memory of this jury or any of them."

"In later days," adds Mr. Cobb, "the place became a quarry, and to-day the houses and boundary walls of the village are full of great wrought stones which clearly were never intended for the places they now occupy." Yet so ample was the material, so excellent the workmanship of the great spreading structure that three centuries after the jury had declared it a ruin "before the memory" of any of its members, we find it, thanks to the care and judgment of Mr. Cobb and of his father before him, once more a place of inhabitation, retaining in high degree the spirit, the appearance and, indeed, much of the original detail of the days when mediæval art and architecture were at their height, when a Bohun sought to fitly house the daughter of his King, and a Plantagenet remodelled the place for the delectation of the Bohun heiress who was his wife. H. AVRAY TIPPING.

[Mr. Cobb is only an occasional resident at the Castle. His headquarters are on board the *Foudroyant* in Falmouth harbour. His admirable work in training lads for the Navy, and his praiseworthy zeal for the preservation of one or two examples of our old wooden battleships, will shortly be the subject of an illustrated article in COUNTRY LIFE.]

ROADSIDE AND HEDGEROW TIMBER

BY GERTRUDE JEKYLL.

FROM time to time, and especially now when every kind of fuel is scarce and dear, the question arises as to the desirability or otherwise of timber trees in hedge-banks and by roadsides; and it will probably continue to be a subject of discussion and diversity of opinion, for it is evident that several interests—some of them more or less opposed—are necessarily involved. If the farmer of arable land could have it all his own way, not only would hedgerow timber disappear, but with it many of the hedge-banks themselves, for with the increasing use of motor ploughs and other agricultural machinery the need is felt of larger spaces to be dealt with at one operation. Moreover, the farmer justly argues that the banks harbour rabbits and rats and the seeds of many weeds, and that the hedges must be trimmed; and, especially in these days

of scanty labour, this becomes almost impossible, while the brushwood or faggoting, even if he could give the labour for cutting it, would not repay him the value of the men's time. With grazing land it is another matter, for the hedgerow trees not only afford grateful shade in summer, but where there are banks covered with such a protection as an old growth of holly, nothing is more desirable or a greater comfort to stock in winter; in fact, there are many days in mid-winter when, by a sunny bank thickly clothed with holly, one may sit and bask and hardly know that December or January is not June.

As to the kinds of trees most desirable for hedge-banks, the prevalence of the elm is only a matter of common-sense, for it is an upright-growing tree delighting in air and light all round. Such a thing as a wood of elms is hardly known, and the amount



M. C. Co'tam.

ROADSIDE TREES IN WINTER.

Copyright.

of hedgerow timber of this one tree alone in the Home Counties must be something enormous. When growing on a bank the roots are mostly confined to the bank, and when it stands in park or pasture it takes to itself but little of the space, for it is one of the trees that allow the grass to grow right up to the trunk. In some districts the trunks are regularly stripped of side growths for some distance up, so yielding a quantity of faggoting every few years, and though the practice renders the trees rather unsightly, it must be admitted that it lets in more light and air to the crops. It should be remembered that elmwood is always in demand; it is the best wood for weather-boarding, the boards

plead earnestly for the saving of the timber of hedge, and especially of roadside. Many of our roads have a few yards of grassy edge either to right or left. Here the hedge timber can do no possible harm, while it does everything to gladden and interest those who pass by. Well may we plead that "man doth not live by bread alone" and deplore when a roadside hedge is grubbed and we are robbed of all the beauty of the trees and bushes and their gracious accompaniment of flowery growth, and of the many interests that go with a change of site or soil. Let us not be deprived of the great oaks of the stiff land and all that accompanies them, even though they may stand in hedges.



Bertram Wickson.

ELMS AT AMBERLEY.

Copyright.

not only being extremely durable, but turning with age to a beautiful silvery grey colour. Elm boards are also in regular use for coffins. It deserves more general employment in internal house fittings, for it is a beautiful brown wood for stairs and simple panellings, its only failing being a tendency to "wind." The ash is also a suitable hedgerow tree, not of dense shade, of rather upright growth, and with timber of great value at all ages. It is the toughest and most elastic of all our native woods, and always commands a good price.

So far for the economic point of view, but those of us who jealously treasure and take pride in the beauty of England will

with the wild cherries and the dog-roses and great brambles, almost as handsome as grape vines in growth and foliage; of the beech, yew, privet, bushy maple and wayfaring tree of the chalk, with their interweaving of wild clematis; of the willow, buckthorn and red-berried water elder where the valley road is near the stream; of the heathland hedges with birch, mountain ash and spindle tree, wreathed with honeysuckle and bryony; of all these accessories to the wonderful beauty of the countryside that we pray may still be preserved, even though we may yet have some time to pass through of difficulty and privation.

SETTEES AND SOFAS.—VI

BY PERCY MACQUOID.

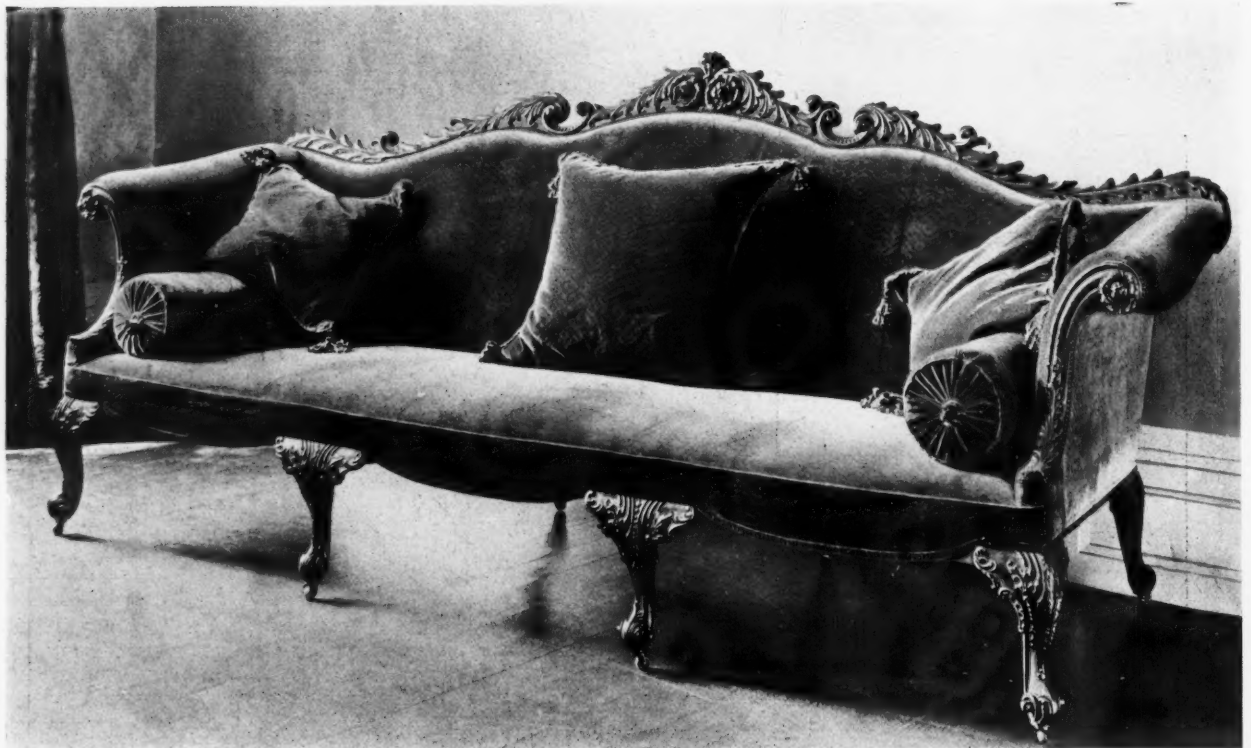


FIG. 1.—LARGE MAHOGANY SOFA with undulating carved cresting and bold scrolled ends and feet. These and the legs show a style circa 1745-50 that probably emanates from the workshops of Chippendale.

IN spite of the florid fashion in sofas, established so strongly by the Chippendale school, of which Fig. 1, belonging to Mr. Percival Griffiths, is a fine example (and here given out of its order as a reminiscence of this type), it has been shown that a period of changeable variety, restless movement and a very patent progression towards simplicity had set in circa 1759. This change proceeded simultaneously in France, England and Italy, and so must not be attributed to the work of any particular individual. Consequently the backs of sofas gradually became more severe and, if serpentine, shallow in their sweep, or eventually straight; the upholstery being contained within a slight framing often rising to a lightly carved cresting of ribbons and roses. The prevailing taste, at any rate in gilt furniture, was undoubtedly of French origin, so much so, that where wealth and position permitted such expenditure, backs, seats and cheeks of Aubusson, Beauvais and Gobelin tapestries were imported into England as coverings for our sofas and chairs. These were made in France early in the eighteenth century and took the place of the needlework that had hitherto been so extensively employed. Much the same motives of design were adopted on these tapestries as on needlework; and bouquets of large flowers with birds and butterflies on coloured grounds

were woven in silks and wool. Contemporary English tapestry works, such as those already existing at Mortlake, were started in Soho and Fulham in an attempt to rival the French looms, but never quite attained the same delicacy of design or brilliancy of colouring. Before the middle of the century small figure subjects formed a very favourite motive, especially in Beauvais coverings; but towards 1770 these gave way to more conventional ribbons and roses suspending musical trophies, etc.,

woven in colours on cream-coloured panels surrounded by a ground-work of plain colour, either green, blue or the so-termed "Du Barri" rose. Very beautiful examples of this French tapestry mounted upon the gilt furniture designed by Adam are preserved in perfect condition at Harewood



FIG. 2.—MAHOGANY SOFA with open ribbonwork cresting and late cabriole legs, both showing strong French influence. Circa 1760-65.

and Osterley: Lord Zetland also possesses a suite of this description. After the introduction of tapestry coverings in England the pictorial needlework became very inferior in design and execution.

Varieties of criss-cross design containing a flower in the centre of each lozenge and worked in a coarse woollen stitch took the place of the rich and vivacious colourings executed in *petit point* by the domesticated ladies of early Georgian times, and their industrial efforts in this decorative art during the



FIG. 3.—QUADRUPLE SHIELD-SHAPED CHAIRBACK SETTEE, painted black with coloured decorations. The arms are hoop shaped and splatted to match the back. The legs are cylindrical, proving a date circa 1775-80, probably designed by Heppelwhite.

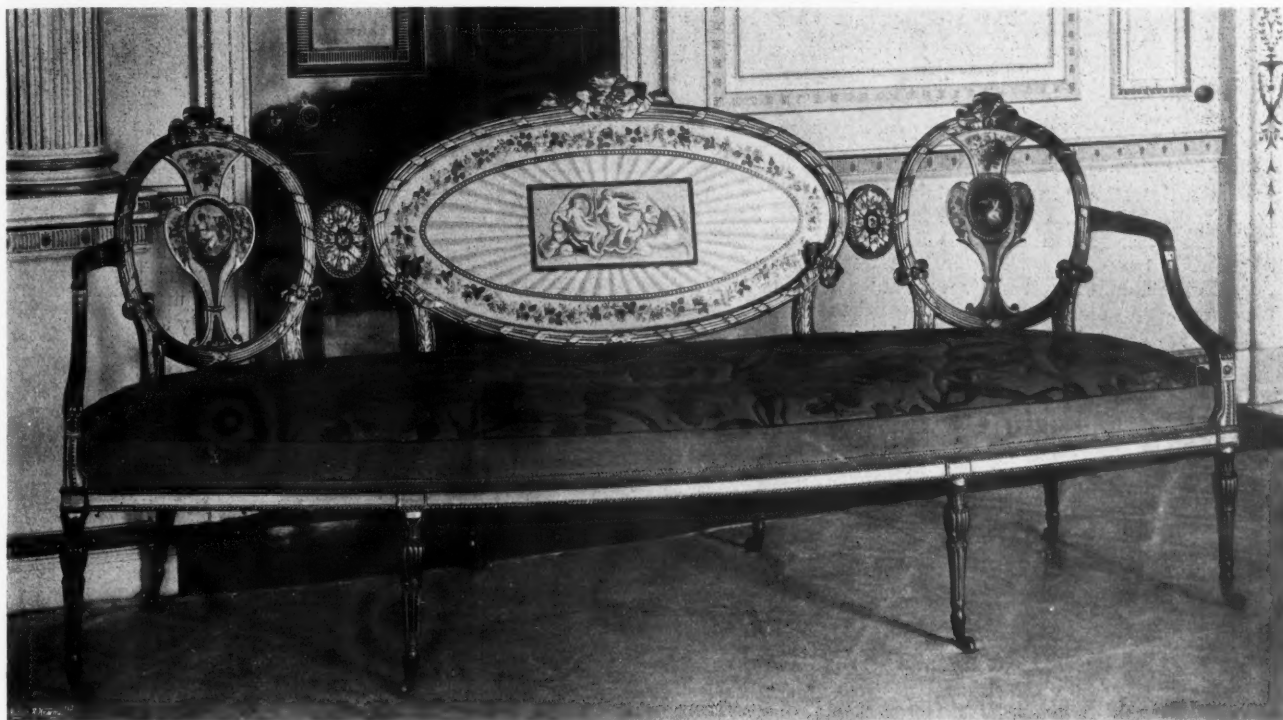
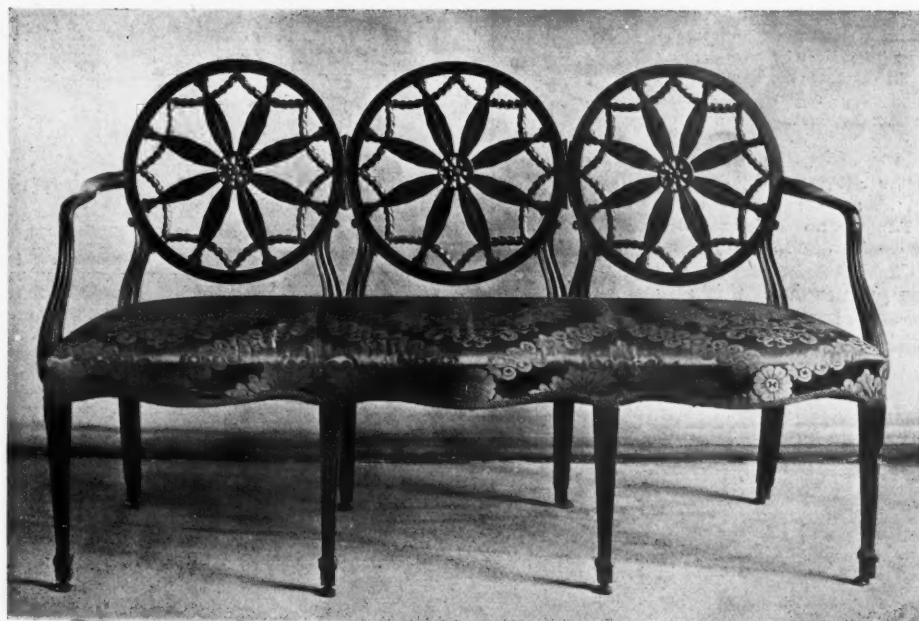


FIG. 4.—GILT AND PAINTED SETTEE, one of a set with chairs, the property of Lord Leverhulme. The large panel centres in a classical subject, painted on a green and buff ground, surrounded by a border



of coloured flowers; similar paintings decorate the chair-backs, which are separated from the centre oval by carved and gilt pateræ. The tapering legs are fluted and gilt. The design comprises Adam and Pergolesi motives, circa 1789. Length 7ft.

FIG. 5.—TRIPLE CHAIRBACK SETTEE, composed of three circles with narrow palm leaves radiating to a central patera and united by a festooning of husks. The circles are strengthened by a slight keying, the uprights supporting them spreading outwards with the same intention. The arms and legs are of extreme delicacy. Date circa 1789.

next generation often appear to have been more or less confined to little pictures and fire screens worked in Italian stitch on white satin.

These English gilt and tapestried sofas represent the last attempt of magnificence in such objects, for even the fantasies of French taste soon after 1770 were simplified into severer lines and less redundant ornament, though occasionally in both countries exceptional examples were produced, such as the sofa made for Marie Antoinette covered in brocade and gold galon and costing 10,600fcs., a sum equivalent to £1,260 of our present currency.

A simple transitional example in mahogany of a sofa founded on French lines of about 1760-1765 can be seen in Fig. 2. The low sweeping back is crested with an openwork ribboning, ingeniously centring in a double bow; the legs, which represent the last phase of cabriole fashion, are simply decorated with a minute beading, and end in plain feet without any attempt at scrolling. Many sofas of similar form were made of beech-wood, painted and gilt with moulded legs, the back framing carrying out the same moulding and centring in the well known French rose and rosebud cresting, a feature that was often also introduced on the shoulders of the legs. The coverings of these sofas were often of chintz or silk, sometimes of horsehair, but never of leather as in this present example, the shape being obviously suited for drawing-rooms.

Chair-backed settees continued to be made until the end of the century; they adopted the various contemporary

motives of chairs, but occasionally, in smaller mahogany specimens, the backs are found forming one openwork design of carving, such as trophies of musical instruments connected by classical festoons and other details typical of the new school; but the majority still adhered to the old construction, introducing the oval and circular chair-back of Adam, or the shield shape of Heppelwhite, either in mahogany, painted satinwood, or white wood painted in colours, the latter method eventually obtaining preference. After 1780 the framing and legs were still at times gilt, the splats being solid and painted with classical subjects in polychrome or grisaille.

An exaggerated tendency towards lightness seems to have influenced all furniture by the end of the eighteenth century, even the taper and rectangular legs of 1770 being evidently considered too robust; and, as the wide, square-cut coats for men, and the hooped petticoats and sacques for women disappeared from the exigencies of fashion, an even less substantial framing for the sitter seem required, and perilously slender backs and round legs were considered more in accordance with the close-fitted tailoring of the one sex and the barely concealed nudity of the other. In the latter case so closely were the costumes and customs of classical Cyprus copied, that the entire clothing of a female exquisite about 1795, including her shoes and jewellery, is stated to have often weighed less than 3lb., with the fatal result that the death-rate from various forms of phthisis between 1800 and 1825 rose to alarming proportions.

LITERATURE

A BOOK OF THE WEEK

Joan and Peter, by H. G. Wells. (Cassell.)

IT is a fascinating and exhilarating experience to see old things for the first time and Mr. Wells is to be envied for the almost youthful zest and something very like youthful intolerance with which he deals iconoclastically with the old order. Time was when he wrote of Utopias, and now, by a queer reversal of the usual process, he is busy with the work of excavation and rubbish carting as a preliminary to realising his castles of dreams.

Joan and Peter is the story of Oswald Sydenham, a grave, one-eyed fellow who finds himself guardian of Peter and of Joan, his foster-sister. Peter Stubland was born in 1803, in the reign which seemed in those days "to have been going on for ever and to be likely to be going on for evermore" of Queen Victoria. He was thus well in front of the great crop of Peters who have got their name from Peter Pan.

The parents are conveniently disposed of in a boating accident, and the children under the will of the father become the wards of his two sisters and of Lady Charlotte and Oswald, and the first few years of the guardianship are a fight between the aesthetic, feminist aunts and the terrifying, reactionary Lady Charlotte.

Near by their Surrey home is the school of St. George and the Venerable Bede run by Miss Murgatroyd, who had neither degree nor diploma, and was "usually very severe upon what she called the Fetish of Examinations."

Miss Murgatroyd had the temperament of a sensational editor. Her school was a vehicle for Booms. Every term there was at least one fundamental change. The year when Joan and Peter joined the school was the year of the Diamond Jubilee, and Miss Murgatroyd had a season of loyalty. The "Empire" and a remarkable work called "Sixty Years a Queen" dominated the school; Victoria, that poor little old panting German widow, was represented as building up a great fabric of liberty and order, as reconciling nations, as showing what a woman's heart, a mother's instinct, could do for mankind. She was, Miss Murgatroyd conveyed, the instigator of such inventions as the electric light and the telephone; she spread railways over the world as one spreads bread with butter; she inspired Tennyson and Dickens, Carlyle and William Morris to their remarkable efforts. The whole world revered her.

But Joan and Peter were happy enough in this airy school, and it was an evil day when Lady Charlotte kidnapped them with a motor car and despatched poor little Peter to the High Cross Preparatory School, from which, with splendid initiative, he ran away and was restored to his aunts. Back from Africa comes Oswald and takes full control. He has the most lofty notions of what the educational system should do to equip Peter and other small boys of his kind to be citizens and Empire builders, and he starts on a tour of schoolmaster baiting. It is all immense fun, and gives Mr. Wells glorious opportunities of making game of the traditional curriculum of Public Schools with their insistence on Greek and Latin and their half-hearted concession of modern sides. In the end, and rather reluctantly,

Peter is entered at Caxton. What happens to him there we are not told, for the story settles down for a bit to the most engaging account of the awakening to manhood and womanhood of Peter and Joan.

It is all done with terrific force, and is crammed with vivid incident, but it will not bear a comparison with, let us say, "Mr. Britling Sees it Through," which was a finely consistent piece of work undisturbed by divided interest. For this story of education tries to be two things at once. It tries to be, and succeeds in being, a perfectly admirable story of the growth and development of two young people who are to play their part in the great war; it also tries, and rather fails, to be a serious criticism on the educational system of this country, and it fails because Mr. Wells has employed the unworthy and altogether worn-out device of setting up a number of grotesque Aunt Sallies in order to enjoy the exciting business of bowling them over. High Cross School, for example, may be a portrait of some school, but the long chapter describing it was not worth the doing, for it has been done long ago very much better by Dickens in "Nicholas Nickleby." What we should have liked would have been an account of Peter's years at Caxton; for although we hear nothing of them, Peter turns out to be a splendid fellow, and we find him in the end, when he realises his childish dreams of flying through the air, covering himself with glory in a bigger business of citizenship than ever Oswald foresaw. It is not quite clear, therefore, what all the pother was about. We make the acquaintance of only one school-master, and that, Mr. Squeer's rather feeble understudy.

And then the rest of the Aunt Sallies. Lady Charlotte Sydenham (who, by the way, is curiously endowed with the title belonging to a Duke or Marquis's daughter, though her father was a commoner), is a true figure of fun indeed; but to pretend that she is representative of a class only weakens the case against her kind. In the early 'nineties

She was very good at taking down impertinent people, and most people struck her as impertinent; she could make a young man or a plain girl or a social inferior "feel small" quicker (and smaller) than almost anyone in that part of Surrey.

And in the Great War she plays a vigorous part, for she "interested herself in the persecution of all Germans not related to Royalty who chanced to be in the country." The aesthetic aunts are truer to type; but, even so, the problem of educating Joan and Peter would have been a little nearer to the everyday problem Mr. Wells would have us believe it is if his children had not been surrounded by so much eccentricity.

The book is, as one expects of Mr. Wells, sprinkled throughout with controversial thrusts and debating points, and he does not scruple even to bring in himself among a crowd of "irresponsible contemporary teachers" who were doing something to supplement education in the Press. Altogether, one cannot help feeling that *Joan and Peter* is a good novel spoilt.

CORRESPONDENCE

RECORDS OF HARVESTS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I was interested in reading your article on our bountiful harvest of this year, especially in the Eastern Counties. We have great cause to give thanks to our merciful Creator, and to the farmers for their untiring endeavours under great difficulties. It would certainly be a grand idea to put on record the abundance grown this year and to compare it with others. The year 1868 was always spoken of as the great corn year, but it was too dry for grass and fodder and cattle had great privations; but this year is an all-round abundance, and, as far as wheat goes, again confirms the old farmers' convictions that they could lie in bed and forecast what the wheat crop would be—that is, a dry March always brings a bumper wheat harvest. The year 1885 was the best in which I ever farmed, for then at Great Holland, Essex, I had a 12-acre and a 10-acre field that each produced eight and a half quarters to the acre—beautiful thin-skinned, old-fashioned, rough chaff white wheat, such as the millers delighted in. That year barley and wheat averaged seven and a half quarters the farm over; crops stood well, though heavy; there were few storms that summer. I shall never forget the 12-acre field; it was as level as a table and ears so thick and fine; it looked as if one might walk on the top of it. Just to show what seasons and weather have to do with crops, in 1889, the next turn for wheat, the same two fields only grew four quarters per acre. They had been equally well farmed and the whole farm was improved gradually from 1879, when taken on, and both crops were after clover as before. Advice on farming is misleading—location, seasons and change of seed all tell, but uncertainty is the ruling result. What is right in one part of a county is quite wrong in another; even on the same farm soil so varies that a positive result is misleading. Just to show what this season has been, I planted some Pilot garden peas in February and picked the first crop early in June, and planted the same ground at the end of June (I did not even move the sticks one side of the rows) with Pilot and Veitch's Perfection mixed, and picked the second crop last week in August and first week in September. This was an experiment and it came off. If anyone advised this, the average result would be failure. If you care to print any part of this, kindly do so, but be sure to add, if you wish the land to feed you, feed it and ask a blessing on your labours.—J. B. N.

THE RUINED FANES OF FRANCE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—There are many things that we must bear in mind before we contemplate peace negotiations with Germany. One of these things is the havoc and destruction systematically organised in Belgium and the North of France. We must not forget that the Hun troops were provided with a book of instructions concerning the looting, plundering, spoiling of houses, factories, museums, libraries, and the blowing up or destruction by fire of all buildings. We must not forget that the monuments of Northern France have been demolished without military necessity by the enemy. Rheims Cathedral, the town hall and belfry of Arras, the Drapers' Hall of Ypres, the famous Castle of Coucy, are only a few examples among thousands of German savagery. I want now to call your attention to the little town of Soissons, which has been literally razed to the ground. As soon as they could, the Germans began to shell the cathedral, as intent on destroying it as they were not to damage too much the junction of the three converging railway lines which they hoped soon to use for pushing on. Soissons was one of the oldest towns in France, and one of the prettiest, being celebrated as much for its well-built houses as for its beautiful gardens. At the Celtic period it was an important agglomeration and it remained one of the capitals of Gaul at the Roman and Frank period. When the barbaric hordes invaded the country, Soissons became the centre of resistance of the Gallo-Romans. Its bishopric dates from the third century when a cathedral was begun. The present one was built on the same ground during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. As the accompanying photographs show, it is one of the finest examples of the pointed or Gothic arch. Its dimensions were 350ft. in length, 90ft. wide, and 110ft. high. The town of Soissons is intimately linked with the earliest history of France. The kings of the first dynasty, the Merovingians, were buried in the crypt of the ancient chapel of St. John of the Vines (St. Jean des Vignes). All French schoolboys and girls are told

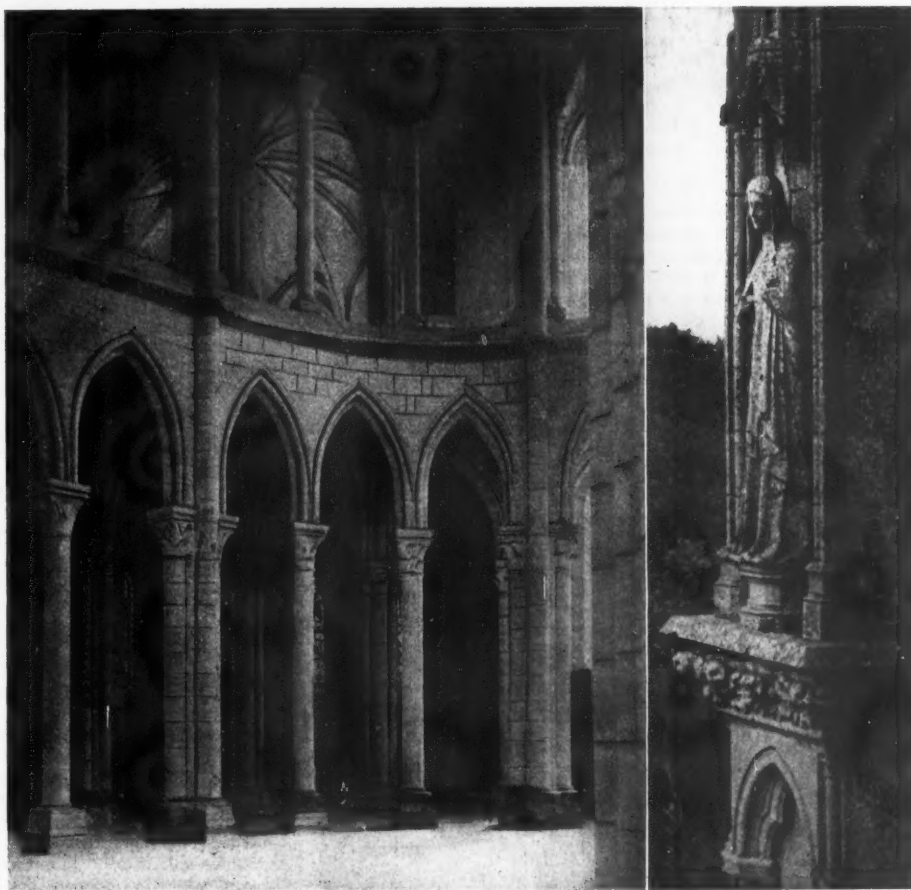
the famous tale of the "Vase de Soissons." The town is really the cradle of French Monarchy, as Rheims is the town where all French monarchs went to be anointed on ascending the throne, and heraldists will be interested to know that the town's armorial bearings are *de gueules à une fleur de lys d'or*. In spite of that royal patronage, Soissons was among the very first to constitute itself into a "commune" and was granted a charter by the king.

The destruction of Rheims and of Soissons is not only material destruction. In destroying them and so many other old towns and places, the Germans deliberately meant to kill a part of the soul of France, to dishearten her and make her accept her fate as a slave of Germany. The stones of Soissons Cathedral were memories and symbols which cannot be replaced. If such English cathedrals as Canterbury, York or Winchester were in ruins it would mean more to English tradition than the wiping out of any modern creation. The outrage on Soissons and the old towns of France and Belgium cannot be repaid by any punishment or indemnity.—J. D.

THE SUPPLY OF OATS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Will you allow me, as a large oat-grower, to endorse the views put forward by your contributor "Phil'ippos" in your issue of September 14th. He sums up the situation with regard to oats exactly. The whole crux of the question lies in this: Imported oats sell at the rate of 64s. a quarter of 320lb., equivalent to £22 8s. a ton, which, as the importers are willing to bring over at the price, presumably represents their value in the world market. Meanwhile, the English farmer is compelled to sell a better class oat at an average price of 50s. a quarter of 336lb., equal to £16 13s. 4d. a ton. At the same time cotton and linseed cake are forbidden except to dairy farmers, and in practice are unobtainable to them. Peas and beans are prohibitive in price. The result produced is this: Every farmer worthy of the name knows that livestock is the foundation of good farming, and that a certain amount of concentrated food is essential to all animals. He knows that his oats are to-day not only the *cheapest* but by far the *safest* and most digestible concentrated food he can obtain, and, in most cases, the only one. He probably further knows that his oats are not making their fair value in the world market. Result—he keeps most of them at home and feeds them himself. Now for the remedy: Let the Government give a free market for oats and, at the same time, a free market for linseed cake, which is not, and has never been, a dairy food. Let the cotton cake be reserved for dairy cows, which is its proper use. English oats will rise to the level of foreign; but at that price it will pay a farmer to dispose of more oats and buy linseed cake. It is true oats would be dearer, but they would be obtainable, whereas often now they are not. With such an article as oats it is surely better to have a good supply, even if dear, than a nominally lower price and no supplies.—ARTHUR BARING.

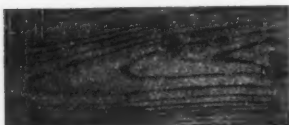


SOISSONS CATHEDRAL BEFORE THE WAR.

PAULOWNIA IMPERIALIS IN LONDON.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—Though common along the boulevards of Paris and other Continental towns, the paulownia is a comparatively rare tree in this country, two of the largest specimens I have seen being at High Elms, Lord Avebury's estate, and in the Flower Garden, Regent's Park. The latter has a branch spread of 90ft. and the stem girths 5ft. 5ins. at ryd. from the ground. It is one of the most ornamental of hardy trees, the large, ovate-cordate, deep green leaves, which greatly resemble those of the catalpa, being often roins. long and covered with a greyish woolly tomentum, while the sweetly scented foxglove or gloxinia-like flowers are purplish violet and distinctly spotted. Though perfectly hardy in other respects, it is unfortunate that the season at which the flowers are produced is so early that unless the conditions are unusually favourable the buds get destroyed by frost. Only twice in fifteen years have the flowers become fully developed on the Regent's Park tree. By far the lightest of home-grown timber is that of Paulownia imperialis, 1 cubic foot of which only weighs 22lb., as against 65lb. of the oak. The nearest approach



THE PAULOWNIA AND ITS WOOD.

is lime wood, which weighs 28lb. to the foot. It is of a beautiful, light brown colour, somewhat like teak in appearance, compact and readily indented. It neither warps, splits nor shrinks; for, however thin the boarding may be cut, there is no tendency to warping, and this is referring to planks cut from a log that was 2ft. in diameter. By the Japanese the wood, which takes a smooth, clean polish, is largely used for veneering purposes, as also for wardrobe making on account of its resistance to damp. There is no likelihood, however, of the paulownia being of economic value in this country, where, unless in the most favoured situations, it rarely succeeds in a satisfactory way. Among other specimens of the paulownia in London are those growing in the grounds of the Royal Botanic Society and in Ruskin Park.—A. D. WEBSTER.

CIDER-MAKING IN GUERNSEY.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent "Channel Islander," I have seen a similar huge stone wheel used for crushing apples in a circular trough at Bickleigh, near Plymouth. There is also one which is now worked regularly every year—excepting this year, the only year in living memory when there have not been sufficient apples for cider making in the district—at Stretton-on-Fosse, a village about four miles from Moreton-in-the-Marsh.—JOHN METTERS

A TYPICAL "OLD GLO'STER SPOT."

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I enclose a photograph of a typical "Old Glo'ster Spot," Aston Diana, registered in Herd Book, and her family of fourteen, in case you may think it worthy of reproduction in your paper.—F. WALLER.



A LONG, STRONG FAMILY.

FROM CALCUTTA.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—It has always seemed to me that the differences between nations which strike an observer most forcibly are those in the small matters



NO NEED FOR A PANTECHNICON.

of everyday life, such as clothing or food, rather than the larger ones of religion or colour. Perhaps your readers will agree with me that

these photographs of a policeman in Calcutta with his sunshade firmly fixed to his belt, thus freeing his hands for his work, and of coolies conducting the removal of a piano, illustrate my contention.—H. S. P.

"HUNTING IS GOING ON!"

THE EDITOR.

SIR,—When talking to our M.F.H. the other day, he said to me: "We get quite a few subscriptions from abroad, so, man, write and say, 'whatever you do, keep it going till we come back.'"

Would it be possible to find out how many subscriptions are sent by men out of England to the various packs they have been accustomed to hunt with? If so, and the number could be published in your paper and *Baily* and *Badminton* and others, it would go to prove that to let hunting drop out would be a betrayal of the trust of those at the front.—R. N.

A POLICEMAN WEARING A SUNSHADE.

ACCUMULATED FURNITURE.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "COUNTRY LIFE."]

SIR,—I should like to suggest through your paper that owners of our great country houses, many of whom have been badly hit by the war, might take advantage of the present high prices of furniture and clear out the unnecessary and poor furniture that is bound to accumulate in these great houses. I have been staying for a few days at one of these houses, where the owners are very interested in their furniture and old belongings, and I with my friends went through the house. There were literally vanloads they absolutely did not know what to do with, and which would be ever so much better away, less work for servants in cleaning it, and, generally speaking, the owners are only too pleased to see it gone. Among the many wonderful pieces my friends own I found many "fakes" of Early Victorian days and indifferent pieces which were not wanted and spoil the rooms. The oak furniture especially needed going through. Why not take advantage of the high prices now prevailing—sell all this? Many who have made large fortunes out of the war would be only too pleased to buy them. Later the new owners can sell again. The present owners often need money with farms under-rented and the very heavy taxes of to-day. I trust my suggestion may be of use. I am sure it is good.—HOBBY.



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BLACKBERRY LAND

SEPTEMBER has hardly lived up to her boon reputation in the South of England. The radiant August petered out with grey skies and boisterous, rainy winds. Last year in the hollows and the deep cleft Chiltern lanes the early mists hung still and brooding, and vanished with the hot sun. This year the continuous south-west draught has chilled the woods and the clearings where the wild raspberries grew, and the ground was carpeted with strawberries. The feasting butterflies are conspicuous only by their absence. Last year the great Silver-washed Fritillaries survived into the middle of the month. The tall thistles and rarer clumps of dull hemp agrimony were gay with Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells and Red Admirals, and overhead the Whites flickered through the lattices of beech. To-day only the Speckled Wood, in its third autumnal flight, moves sombrely from stem to stem. Even the open down beyond is bare of the Chalkhill and his hardly commoner brother, the Common Blue.

With the exception of sloes the harvest of the hedges is, however, plentiful. The steep lanes are still gay with the lilac gipsy rose and marjoram. The clematis has passed from scented flowerhood to the filmy intermediate stage, soon to become "the old man's beard." The rock rose that spread a "Field of the Cloth of Gold" over all the banks is now thick with aromatic dusky seed-heads. The holly berries on the southern slopes are showing in force—a limpid yellow; the fruit of the wayfaring tree is purpling to perfection. The hawthorns are clustered with coral beads. Beechnuts and acorns are few and far between, but the hazels are heavy with ripe warm brown nuts, and, to console the empty panniers of the fruit garden, blackberries, in every stage from emerald green to luscious wine-dark fulness, await the "hookey stick" and basket. On the open heath, where the lower bushes nestle to the sun-baked earth, they were ripe a month ago, with that lesser bramble "beglossed as if with dew, shining dim-powdered with a downy blue," not unlike the bloom of a summer plum. Birds do not appear to care for either sort. The smaller winged creatures, especially wasps and flies, make boot upon them, regardless of the dragon fly, the great chrome and blue uniformed policeman, flashing along to apprehend the revellers. No "special" ever kept more closely to his appointed beat. *Edax rerum*—his mighty jaws consume all lesser things; himself, the "Devil's darning needle" without peer in the insect world. His "Iliad" even relates how he met a sparrow in single combat and put him to ignominious flight.

Our forefathers gave no house rank to the blackberry, except as conserve. The herb doctor held a decoction of the leaves an infallible remedy for snake-bite. The surgeon-barber pickled the fruit for "heyre die," and the root as an astringent to refix loose teeth. To this day neither blackberry nor gooseberry finds favour with the French cuisine. The writer remembers hedges loaded with blackberries, if not as fine as "the greeps" of Glenmalony—"six pounds every bunch of 'em"—at all events the size of the grapes of Fontevrault, where the dessert of an otherwise exceptional inn dinner consisted of a few half-starved apples. Madame had never heard of blackberries for the kitchen, much less for dessert. A Bretonne, she may have regarded them as the fruit of the devil, containing the worm whose bite is certain death—a belief surviving from the days when everything black in nature was the perquisite of his Satanic majesty. They have a more practical regard for the cult of the berry in Norway and Sweden, though the lords of Norlandia no longer pledge one another in bumpers of bramble wine, as when Linnaeus first distinguished the "Arctic bramble." This bush attains no more than the height of our dewberry, but contributes royally to the jams and jellies of the smorgasbord, and "makes" the reindeer hash as surely as the sauce makes the river fish of France. History is silent of the genius who first wedded the apple and the blackberry, as of the achievements of the Savarin who decreed the union of raspberry and red currant in pie and pudding. The times are changed indeed since dear gossiping Ann Pratt in her charming way declared that "blackberries are now little valued save by the country children," those same children whom the Misses Jane and Ann Taylor dismissed with the caution that "fruit in lanes is seldom good." The war has sent us all a-blackberrying, those too young and those too old to fight, or serve as Waac or Wren. "Shall the blessed sun of heaven prove a 'micher,' and eat blackberries?" roars Falstaff to Prince Hal. The answer for us is in the affirmative, and we are all ready "truants" to fill the empty fruit jars and boil down the superfluous sugar ration applied

for in hope of a plentiful orchard and garden harvest, doomed in the event to disappointment with plums at 2s. and apples, even of the baser sort, at 1s. 4d. the pound. OLIVER GREY.

TURF, STUD & STABLE

THE War Cabinet's decision not to sanction a season of winter racing under National Hunt Rules is being challenged by a number of owners and professional racing folk who have held a meeting, the outcome of which is a decision to form an association for the protection of horse breeding and horse racing interests. It will aim at being representative, but stronger proof of this characteristic will have to be forthcoming than was provided by the meeting itself. At present the policy seems to be to worry the War Cabinet until it shall yield in order to be rid of the sniping critics. Another article of faith in the programme of the agitators is to belittle the authority and prestige of the Jockey Club by alleging that it is indifferent to the highest interests of racing by its easy toleration and acceptance of the War Cabinet's decisions against flat racing apart from what is now permitted at Newmarket. This is just where the agitators are overloading their ship to the point of bringing disaster to themselves.

Breeders and owners who have more right to be called representative than any who are likely to be associated with Mr. Horatio Bottomley's little congregation and clamorous campaign are quite satisfied with the Jockey Club's wise and dignified attitude throughout its dealings with the Government. Any other attitude, indeed, would have brought a heavy indictment against the Turf at a time when the nerves of the country were in a very jumpy state as a result of the critical military situation in France some months ago. It is true that the situation has vastly improved, but matters in regard to food, fuel, and railways are still critical in spite of the present apparent confidence which in reality is no more than surface deep. I do not believe for a moment that the new association will succeed in sapping confidence in, and respect for, the Jockey Club, but, assuming that it did so, I suggest most emphatically that the result would be disastrous for the British Turf. The Jockey Club, in my opinion, has done the right thing, the only thing, in all its actions. Had it acted otherwise, the Government and public opinion would never have forgiven it. Its authority would have been permanently weakened, whereas it has been strengthened by the patriotic way in which it bowed to the rulings of those who, after all, are responsible for the prosecution of the war and the conduct of a nation at war.

You cannot expect specialists in the prosecution of war and in the controlling of munitions, shipping, railways, food and men to be experts in horse breeding in all its aspects and ramifications; but even they can be credited with inability to appreciate the existence of a vital link between horse breeding as a national industry and the racing of many geldings and a few mares over fences and hurdles. When the agitators plead for more racing, even winter racing, in the interests of our wounded convalescents and our tired, jaded and restless workers in pit, factory, machine shop and shipbuilding yard, I am in agreement with them, and join most seriously in suggesting to the War Cabinet that they cannot afford to ignore this phase of the question. It is one I put forward in COUNTRY LIFE some time ago, and it is bound to come up for decision next spring, when more flat racing will be asked for than is possible at Newmarket only. Let us hope the general situation will then be so full of cheer and widespread satisfaction that the decision of the Government will be made ever so much easier for them. I am also most strongly with the critics in their complaint that the Hay and Straw Order by which the feeding and bedding of racehorses is really threatened should be relaxed, at any rate to the point of reasonableness. For it is illogical of the Government to sanction limited racing in order that a national industry of light horse-breeding shall be preserved and then threaten its very existence by orders and restrictions too outrageous for words. In this matter, it is true, the Jockey Club might well make representations and a protest, and were it to do so I feel sure the War Cabinet would lend a reasonable ear.

I had intended to write a few lines about the recently published handicaps for the Cesarewitch and Cambridgeshire Handicaps, but space is not available to-day. All I will venture to suggest is that He and St. Tudwal must play a conspicuous part for the longer race should all go well, while it will take a strong inducement to make me keen on anything but a three year old for the Cambridgeshire. PHILLIPPOS.